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4 December 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Syria's Al-Asad Makes Official Visit to Libya, Algeria
(Marwan al-Hayani; AL-MUSTAQRAL, No 393, 1 Sep 84) 1

Iran's Khamene'i Travels to Syria for Talks
(Husayn Karim; AL-TADAMUN, No 75, 15 Sep 84) 4

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Prosecutor Discusses Banking Deviations
(AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 21 Oct 84) 7

Minister Predicts Improved Government Administration
(('Atif 'Ubayd Interview; AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 21 Oct 84) 11

Wafd Member Ousted Over Nile Valley Parliament Issue
(AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 22 Oct 84) 17

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

Delhi Paper Views U.S. Relations With Pakistan
(Rai Singh; NATIONAL HERALD, 15 Oct 84) 21

Delhi Deplores Remarks by U.S. Envoy in Pakistan
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 16 Oct 84) 24

Press Reports Meeting of BJP National Council
(PATRIOT, 13 Oct 84; THE HINDU, 15 Oct 84) 26

Vajpayee Opening Speech
Resolution on Election Strategy

CPI National Council Works Out Election Strategy (B. N. Uniyal; PATRIOT, 15 Oct 84)	29
Defense Analyst Views India's 'Strategic Environment' (Delhi Domestic Service, 20 Oct 84)	31
East German Paper Interview With Indira Gandhi (Indira Gandhi Interview; NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 29 Oct 84)	35
Briefs	
New Hindu Party	39
Sikkim Party Merger	39
Simultaneous Polling Out	39
Rashtriya Janata-Lok Dal Merger	39
GDR Envoy	40
BJP-RSS Ties	40
Algerian Envoy	40
Protest to Pakistan	41

IRAN

NVOI Views October Revolution's Impact on Iran-USSR Relations (National Voice of Iran, 9 Nov 84)	42
Tehran Warns Kuwait Against Island Agreement (Tehran International Service, 16 Nov 84)	44
Iranian Paper Praises UAE Leader's Stance (Editorial; TEHRAN TIMES, 17 Oct 84)	46

PAKISTAN

U.S. Aid Official Discusses Assistance Plans (DAWN, 26 Oct 84)	48
Muslim Support for Afghans Urged (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 16 Oct 84)	49
Indian Reports of Border Clashes Termed 'Fictitious' (DAWN, 25 Oct 84)	51
Joint Ventures With China Suggested (DAWN, 25 Oct 84)	52
Trade With Austria Profiled (Peter Jehly; DAWN, 26 Oct 84)	53

Zia Supported on Foreign Policy (Editorial; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 26 Oct 84)	55
World Situation Said 'Dangerous' (Editorial; MASHRIQ, 26 Oct 84)	56
Relations With India, Border Situation Viewed (Editorial; MASHRIQ, 28 Oct 84)	58
Commentary on Efforts for Press Freedom (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 19 Oct 84)	60
Border Violations Said No Attempt To Sabotage Elections (Editorial; HAIDAR, 23 Oct 84)	62
Interest in Elections Said Aroused (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	63
Elections on Party Basis Said Likely (Nisar Osmani; DAWN, 29 Oct 84)	64
Possible Election Sabotage Condemned (Editorial; JANG, 30 Oct 84)	65
Commentary on Fears of Election Sabotage (Editorial; HAIDAR, 31 Oct 84)	66
Restrictions on Recently Released Leader Denounced (Editorial; JASARAT, 15 Oct 84)	67
Ban on Political Activity Responsible for Sind Unrest (Editorial; JASARAT, 24 Oct 84)	69
Comments on Ghaffar Khan's Remarks (Editorial; JANG, 25 Oct 84)	71
Text of Presidential Order on Law of Evidence (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	72
Lawyers Protest Events in Sind, Boycott Courts (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	73
Qadianis: Shariat Court Judgment on Ordinance Released (DAWN, 29 Oct 84)	74
Zia Explains Benefits of Evidence Law (DAWN, 29 Oct 84)	76
Commentary on the Law of Evidence (Editorial; JASARAT, 29 Oct 84)	77

Women Express Reaction Against Evidence Law (DAWN, 29 Oct 84)	78
More Reactions To Evidence Law (DAWN, 29 Oct 84)	79
Warning Against 'Fifth Columnists' (DAWN, 30 Oct 84)	80
Concern Over 'Shrinking Rupee' (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 14 Oct 84)	82
Statistics on Foreign Debt (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	84
RCD Revival Efforts Supported (MASHRIQ, 1 Nov 84)	85
ADB Official Talks About Possible Credit (DAWN, 25 Oct 84)	87
WAPDA Official Talks About Long-Range Plans (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	88
Flour Shortages, Price Increase Reported (Editorial; JANG, 18 Oct 84)	89
Economic Council Approves Project (DAWN, 25 Oct 84)	90
Zia To Inaugurate Pakistan Steel in December (DAWN, 25 Oct 84)	91
Energy-Saving Cooking Units Introduced in Refugee Villages (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	92
Pakistan To Assist Oman in Farming (DAWN, 28 Oct 84)	93
Iran Said Willing To Invest in Existing Joint Venture (Shaheen Sehbai; DAWN, 1 Nov 84)	94
Iranian Reinvestment in Joint Textile Ventures (DAWN, 11 Nov 84)	95
Widening of RCD Highway Planned (DAWN, 26 Oct 84)	96
Pakistan To Contest Islamic Chamber of Commerce Posts (Babar Ayaz; DAWN, 29 Oct 84)	97

Check Urged on Increasing Crime (Editorial; JANG, 22 Oct 84)	98
Airlines To Purchase More Planes (DAWN, 1 Nov 84)	99
Arms Smuggling Said Decreased (NAWA-E WAQT, 11 Nov 84)	100
Briefs	
Iran Detains Railroad Officials	101
Oil Purchase From Iran	101
Ambassadors to Indonesia, Somalia, ROK	101
Norwegian Assistance	101
Aerospace Institute Planned	102
Court Directive on Meetings	102
Publications Banned in Sind	102
Chinese Assistance Lauded	102
Ban on Haj Sea Travel	103
Spanish Ambassador Departs	103

SYRIA'S AL-ASAD MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO LIBYA, ALGERIA

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 393, 1 Sep 84 pp 22-23

[Article by Marwan al-Hayani: "Is Syria on the Threshold of an Important Arab Initiative?"]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad's sudden departure for Libya on his first visit since his period of convalescence which lasted throughout the first months of this year following his recovery from illness, confirmed that there are important matters, purposes and long-range goals which called for this visit and were behind it. Details that were disclosed about the visit, which lasted for days and during which President al-Asad left Libya for Algeria and then returned before returning to Damascus, were not adequate, but they hinted with a lot of certainty that the visit is the start of intense Syrian activity aimed at halting the state of decline prevailing in the Arab nation, salvaging what relations, cooperation, and joint Arab action can be salvaged, and hiding the effects that might result from the formation of alliances and axes that weaken the fundamentals of required Arab steadfastness and obstruct joint Arab action that is desired, or as President al-Asad summed it up in Benghazi by saying: "The purpose is to improve the circumstances of joint action in the Arab arena."

For Syria, which bears the burden of direct confrontation with Israel and its expansionist plans and with American ambitions and plans, and which opposed Camp David and later the 17 May agreement, has found it necessary to continue to play its nationalistic role by opposing by every means the Israeli-American assault which aims at imposing solutions of liquidation and surrender on the Arabs and imposing a new reality in the occupied Arab territories and in the region on the whole world.

Official Syrian circles have maintained complete silence and have not wanted to answer any questions on the results of President al-Asad's visit to the Libyan and Algerian capitals. They have been content to point to the statements which President al-Asad made in Benghazi and Algiers, and to official news bulletins which accompanied the visits, and which, it is absolutely clear, were all secretive and circumspect.

When AL-MUSTAQBAL confronted a senior Syrian official with this fact, he said only: "Wait a bit, and we hope you won't have to wait long." When AL-MUSTAQBAL asked for an explanation of that, it was faced with the answer that

the explanation would come with the contacts that the Arab arena would see in the near future. It is not easy to get official Syrian responses that are comprehensive and unequivocal because it is clear that this initiative by President al-Asad is only the start of a great national initiative which Syria feels obliged to embark on in order to break the state of inertia and decline that prevails in the Arab nation under the pretext of waiting--waiting at times for the results of the American presidential elections and at other times for what would follow the Israeli parliamentary elections, even though no-one doubts that waiting only means a loss of more opportunities and of more Arab rights and lands.

For while Arabs wait and argue, Israel is pressing on with the Judaization of the occupied Arab territories and the United States increases its military presence in the region.

The deterioration occurring in the Palestinian arena and the Libyan-Moroccan agreement which was announced by Colonel Qadhafi and King Hasan and which is open to all North African nations headed the list of subjects dealt with in President al-Asad's talks with Colonel Qadhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid, in addition to matters of no less importance which are all relevant to the future of joint Arab action and ways of achieving the success of the upcoming Arab summit, the present situation in Lebanon and the developments in the Gulf war, and what obligations for mobilization, preparation and Arab preparedness would result from confronting all these issues.

Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus are certain that President al-Asad's visits have had as great an impact as possible, since they were the first visits he made after his convalescence. These same sources anticipate intensive Arab contacts centering on saving the nation from its present state of decline and preparing for effective Arab confrontation.

Even though these sources are confident that President al-Asad's talks with Qadhafi and Chadli Bendjedid dealt with, in addition to the subject of the Moroccan-Libyan union, the Palestinian question in light of what will come out of convening the National Council under the shadow of the current divisions in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance, these sources suspect that the two subjects, in spite of their importance, were just two items on the agenda of the talks that took place in Benghazi and Algiers.

That is because these circles have information that makes them certain that President al-Asad's talks were too comprehensive and profound to stop at just these two subjects.

It is difficult now to speak precisely about the content of what took place between President al-Asad and the Libyan and Algerian presidents on these two subjects, especially since most meetings between President al-Asad and Colonel Qadhafi were closed, and most of them took place in camps which Colonel Qadhafi set up in scattered locations in the vast Libyan territory, where he wanted President al-Asad to see everything that had been achieved in spite of great distances and the difficulty of traversing them.

Observers noted that Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud was alone at Colonel Qadhdhafi's side during the open meetings, whereas on the Syrian side there were members of the delegation accompanying President al-Asad: 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president; Sulayman Qaddah, a member of the party leadership; and Yasin Rajuh, the Minister of Information.

Since no joint communique was issued on the outcome of President al-Asad's two visits, the outcome will probably continue to be what Damascus has officially announced: that the Syrian and Libyan sides made known their views and positions on the subjects that came up during the talks, and that the positive atmosphere of the talks helped to clarify many matters which have arisen lately and to get the Libyan side to agree to cooperate with the new Syrian activity on the Arab front, based on the coordination and cooperation that has existed between the two countries for a long time.

It is known that Syria and Libya had previously united with Egypt in the "Union of Arab Republics", then they replaced that with a project for bilateral unity which gave the two sides the opportunity to delve into strategic and basic questions concerning national action and strategic action necessary to responding as Arabs to the new Israeli-American assault.

AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that with this in mind, President al-Asad's visit to Algeria took on a new dimension which facilitated the realization of its intended purpose, since it was officially announced that the views of Presidents al-Asad and Bendjedid coincided and that their assessments of events in the Arab arena also coincided.

It is clear that President al-Asad's return from Algeria to Libya following his positive talks with President Chadli Bendjedid was an indication of the degree to which success was achieved by President al-Asad, especially with respect to clearing the air between Libya and Algeria on the one hand, and to finding common ground for joint Arab measures whose scope will not be limited only to Arab North Africa.

AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that Arab contacts will soon take place to crystalize matters and movements whose details and broad outlines were studied during President al-Asad's talks in Libya and Algeria. Joint Syrian activity with Algeria, Libya, and the Polisario front aims at changing the image of decline besetting the Arab arena by opening up new horizons of Arab national action.

12547

CSO: 4404/7

IRAN'S KHAMENE'I TRAVELS TO SYRIA FOR TALKS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 75, 15 Sep 84 pp 18-19

[Article by Husayn Karim]

[Text] The visit by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to Syria shed new light on the role that Damascus plays in the Iraq-Iran war. Arab political circles in general, and those in the Gulf in particular, that followed the visit by the Iranian president, the first of its kind, noticed that Damascus was able, perhaps for the first time since the war between Iraq and Iran broke out 4 years ago, to take the initiative and respond effectively to the military escalation which Iran has resorted to recently, whether with regard to the tanker war or the mining of the Red Sea, which threw Syria into a state of confusion on both the Arab and international fronts because of its support for Iran.

From the moment the escalation began, Damascus decided to deal with this matter strategically, something which up until now has thwarted Western tactics and continues to impose on it, that is, on Damascus, the need to choose between standing openly with Tehran, or being neutral in order to play the role of a mediator, using to advantage the alliance which links it to Iran. Although nothing has leaked out about what was discussed by the Iranian and Syrian presidents, some Gulf circles believe that up until now, Damascus has had mastery over the rules of the game, both militarily and diplomatically speaking, using to advantage the clarity of the Soviet position on the one hand, and the confusion in the American position on the other, and that consequently it will resist the pressure put on it by some Arab parties who have begun to fear the direction Iran is taking in the region and the Syrian position supportive of it.

Similarly, the little information that filters out of Damascus reports that in addition to the Gulf war, around which the Iranian president's discussions with his Syrian counterpart pivoted, the Lebanese question drew the attention of al-Asad and Khamene'i and it occupied an important place in their talks, something which attracted the attention of observers and led them to see a link to the latest military steps taken by Syrian forces in Ba'labakk in northern Lebanon, where several thousand Iranian Revolutionary Guards had been headquartered, and who lost their bases recently after they were retaken by Syrian soldiers in the Biqa' plain.

Recently news reports have been saying that Tehran is not happy with the Syrian role in Lebanon, especially with its position supportive of the Amal movement, which in the past has experienced harsh divisions between its factions, some of which are supported by Iran and which follow an extremist path in the religious struggle. But the facts which uphold the Syrian role in Lebanon differ from those which that role is based on in the Iraq-Iran war, for while the first role is dictated by Syrian interests, we see that the second role is dictated by regional and international considerations, in which Syria occupies a secondary position compared to its role in the Lebanese arena. However, that does not keep that secondary role from appearing from time to time to be the only alternative to the principle roles that have failed to put an end to the Gulf war.

Therefore, the importance of Khamene'i's visit to Damascus becomes clear, that because it follows changes in Iran's position in the war regarding the acceptance of peaceful solutions, in addition to the internal situation which is becoming more uncertain because of the struggle over Khomeini's succession.

It seems that some Arab sources believe that Khamene'i's visit to Damascus is connected to the Iranian assault on Iraq, which Tehran has begun to talk about again; in other words, that the visit is of a military, not a political, nature, judging from the large military delegation which accompanied the Iranian president. This delegation held separate discussions with Syrian military men which must have touched upon a number of military matters of concern to the Iranian side, whether with regard to desired Syrian support or to using the excellent Syrian-Soviet relations to persuade the Kremlin to stop supplying Iraq with arms which have attained a high degree with regard to both quantity and quality, something which has upset the military balance, tilting it in favour of Iraq. Relying on informed sources, it is believed that it is precisely this point that disturbs the Iranian leadership, which wants Syria to help in alleviating the pressure, even though the joint communique which came out at the end of the visit did not touch upon Iranian concern with the war with Iraq. Rather, it contained broad outlines on the confrontation with Israel, and what was intended was to have Iran be seen as the one standing beside Syria in its confrontation against Israel, and not the other way around.

One reading the joint communique would notice that it does not mention the Iraq-Iran war except in one paragraph whose meaning is obscure because of varying interpretations. The paragraph contains the following sort: "The two sides have condemned efforts to broaden the Iraq-Iran war," and it was intended to shift the blame for broadening the war to parties other than Iran, even though it remains clear that it is Iran that has rejected mediation efforts and which has tried to respond to the Iraqi blockade of Kharg Island by broadening the scope of the war to Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers, so this phrase has led some observers to believe that there is a difference of opinion between the government of Syria and that of Iran.

In addition to that, more than one observer believe that the Irani-Syrian summit meeting had something to do with the rapid changes which North Africa has been experiencing lately, such as the establishing of a union between Libya and Morocco. It is known that Libya has stood with Iran in its war with Iraq,

and the nature of this rapprochement which has taken place with Morocco will be to apply the breaks to Libyan support and divert it to other channels, the least of which will be to take a neutral stance. Therefore, it seems that Khamene'i's visit to Libya, which was followed by a visit to Algeria, was to find out whether the Libyan-Moroccan union would change Libya's alliances in favour of harmonizing with Moroccan policies supportive of Iraq and opposing the directions of the Iranian leadership.

From that, the Iranian position rejecting the Libyan-Moroccan union can be explained. This position was expressed in a commentary by Tehran Radio which was severely critical of that union. And also from that, Iranian movements towards Syria, Libya and Algeria, which were preceded by Syrian movements towards the two countries, can be explained. But if the purpose of Syria's activity was to observe and absorb what had happened, the purpose of Iran's activity was seen by more than one observer to be to sew things up and fish in troubled waters, because Libya's sudden change would undoubtedly result in rapid rearrangements in the region. Indications of this interpretation have come from Morocco, which has approached France on mediating between Paris and Tripoli to end the Chad war, and it seems that some progress was made in that matter during the French president's latest visit to Morocco at the beginning of this month.

Likewise, there are other steps which King Hasan will take in the Arab arena to end the misunderstandings between Qadhdhafi and more than one Arab nation. It is not reasonable to expect that all that will happen without a radical change in the Libyan position, especially towards the Iraq-Iran war. Therefore, it is not unreasonable that these developments would be putting pressure on the Iranian leadership, to the same degree that it is pressuring the Syrian leadership, something which forces them to carefully review previous considerations to which unexpected new factors have been added.

Therefore, Gulf circles in London indicate that the departments that observe events and make Gulf decisions are watching the course of upcoming Syrian activity with extreme interest, in order to find out what Syria's reaction to all the developments which have occurred will be, and how the Syrian role will crystalize as a result, a role which these departments expect will be different from what is was before, especially in relation to Iran.

12547

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PROSECUTOR DISCUSSES BANKING DEVIATIONS

London Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 84 p 8

[Article: "Representative For the Prosecution On Deviant Practices in Egyptian Banks: A Strong Central Bank Must Be Established To Ensure That All Banks Follow Its Directives"]

[Text] There have been several cases of deviant banking practices in some national and investment banks in Egypt over the past few years. These banks have been granting some of their agents development credits and loans without sufficient guarantees, and sometimes without any guarantees at all, resulting in repeated damage to the Egyptian national economy. Not a single case of a bank director's involvement in such violations has been referred to the courts.

The Egyptian Ethics Court is now preparing to investigate the largest case of manipulation of funds yet, starring some currency dealers, a case fraught with deviant practices by the managements of some investment banks.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT met with Assistant Socialist Public Prosecutor Counselor Husni 'Abd-al-Hamid, who is representing the prosecution in this case as he has done in previous cases.

He said, "These banks wrongfully granted credit facilities amounting to about 200 million Egyptian pounds. Currency Dealer Sami 'Ali Hasan obtained 54 million pounds in development facilities from the al-Ahram Bank and the Jamal Trust Bank; Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy obtained 15 million pounds; the al-Dib family sons who own the al-Dib factories in Alexandria obtained 60 million pounds; the proprietor of the Furniture Artisan Shops obtained 50 million pounds; Fathi al-Shubrawi, the largest cement importer in Egypt, obtained 12 million pounds; and Automobile Spare Parts Dealer Rida Ghalib obtained 6 million pounds."

Abuse of Trust

How did all these people obtain these development facilities from these banks--in fact, from more than one bank at a time? The assistant prosecutor said, "They exploited the positions of trust held by some of these banks' employees and officers, who threw open the doors of the banks' vaults so that these agents could obtain development facilities. They cared little that

the deposits in these banks were the money of individual people, but allowed their own personal interests to prevail. The strange thing is that the official salaries and privileges of these bank employees exceed the wildest imagination. An employee not holding an upper management position receives a monthly salary of 5,000 to 6,000 pounds, while upper management employees earn more than 600 pounds a day. The assumption is that such fantastic incomes will deter or prevent them from such deviations at the expense of the national economy of Egypt.

"Many of the agents obtained development facilities from more than one bank at once. For example, Millionaire Sami 'Ali Hasan, the well-known currency dealer, obtained enormous facilities from the al-Ahram Bank amounting to 33.4 million pounds, four times the capital of the bank itself, which amounts to 7 million pounds. At the same time, he obtained the vast sum of 20.8 million pounds in facilities in foreign currencies from the Jamal Trust Bank. He accomplished this by getting some of the people employed in the offices of these banks' senior officers to cooperate with him."

Assault On the People's Money

Counselor 'Abd-al-Hamid continued, "When those wrongdoers in the banks enabled their agents to obtain huge sums in the form of facilities or loans, they were taking part in an organized assault against the money of the bank depositors, who are ordinary Egyptians who have no chance of getting the money back. When depositors go to the banks to deposit their savings, they never suspect that these banks will not look after their money; after all, that is the primary obligation of these banks. While the savers were anticipating large returns on their deposits, which is the whole idea behind the banks' investing these deposits, their savings were being diverted in the interests of the bank employees and the adventurers who were able to get possession of the money. Herein lies the ultimate harm to the national economy.

"Oddly enough, the ethics courts and the investigations conducted by the office of the Socialist Public Prosecutor discovered that Spare Parts Dealer Rida Ghalib had given some bank employees late-model cars in return for obtaining credit facilities from those banks."

The Public Prosecutor's Role

The prosecutor's representative said, "The prosecution's investigations revealed the imbalances and who was responsible for them. But unfortunately, the imbalances discovered by the prosecution were supposed to have been revealed as soon as they occurred by the authorities and bodies responsible for supervising the banks, controlling their activities, and, in fact, observing measures to prevent the occurrence of these violations in the first place. The public prosecutor always plays a delayed role; that is, his part comes after the fact. Likewise, the prosecution's investigations and the trial take considerable time. Total dependence on the prosecution in every case of deviant banking practices means that it will take us hundreds of years to wipe out deviant practices.

"A surprising feature of these cases is that even though the prosecution conducts investigations, and the cases are referred to the Ethics Court, and this court issues its verdicts, the officials do not pay sufficient attention to all this activity, and there are therefore repeated cases of deviation. If only every official would be sufficiently concerned with following up the incidents and cases handled by the prosecution over the last 3 years--for example, the deviant practices in some banks--and if only each official would present some solution, treatment or attempt to control the kind of cases the prosecutor's office has dealt with, we would be able to eliminate deviant banking practices in short order, and the situation would not have reached its present serious proportions. Many questions arise when we see that as soon as each case of deviant banking practices is revealed, those responsible are honored, promoted to higher positions, and granted more privileges. Things seem to be going in two opposing directions."

A Strong Central Bank

We asked, "What steps must be taken to stop this increase in deviant banking practices?"

He said, "Egypt must have a strong central bank which is aware of its responsibilities, knows how to discharge them, and realizes that it is the bank of banks and is the only entity capable of providing a sound banking environment and system. This is a serious responsibility, being linked with the economy of Egypt and the rights of the citizens. But how can this come about, when most of the Central Bank's employees have left to work in investment banks? There are more than 90 such banks, a number which far exceeds the ability of the Central Bank to control or follow up their activities. In other words, right now the Egyptian Central Bank is in an unenviable position, because its experienced employees have been attracted to the banks, and those who are left cannot carry out their job. There have been many difficult adjustments. It is shocking that the country's banking and economic agencies are incapable of solving the problem of providing the foreign currencies which Egypt's economic activity needs."

The assistant public prosecutor added, "What I am afraid of is that behind these deviations there are hidden hands trying to further them and prevent their solution, in order to ultimately become the sole beneficiaries. As for the damage, it all falls on the shoulders of the Egyptian people."

"Currency dealers and bank officers can smuggle only an insignificant amount of money out of the country, nowhere near the amount of money and assets in their keeping. There is no way to get this money back; all we can do is cry over it. If we had a sound banking system, this money would not get out."

Black Market in Currency

He added, "Investigations have revealed that many banks do not investigate as carefully as they should the agent's financial position, the seriousness of his dealings, the extent of his guarantees, and how regular he is in paying

back the loan during the course of development. The result is that some people get millions of pounds from the banks in loans and development credits which they never repay. In fact, some of them smuggle what they get outside the country, to the detriment of the national economy. For this reason, there is an immediate need for the Central Bank to exercise its legally-stipulated jurisdictions, and to issue whatever regulations this situation might require, which all banks must follow in order to prevent the kind of mistakes which have occurred.

"The legitimate sources of foreign currency, such as the savings of Egyptians working overseas and the wages and salaries of employees of some agencies who are paid in dollars, are the object of black market deals. These two sources are the sphere of activity of currency brokers, in Egypt and abroad. Since the existing laws allow the possession of foreign currency and at the same time prohibit dealing in it except within narrowly-defined limits, and allow the importation of currency without its being converted, the law must step in, once the pertinent economic studies are made, in order to ensure the state's control over the sources of foreign currency within the country and to eliminate middlemen. Furthermore, expatriate Egyptians should be encouraged to transfer their savings to Egyptian banks in order to eliminate foreign middlemen, and an effort should be made to stabilize the price of the Egyptian pound vis-a-vis foreign currency and to regulate the importing of foreign currency in light of available foreign currency revenues."

Counselor Husni 'Abd-al-Hamid said that in spite of all these incidents so harmful to the Egyptian economy, and in spite of the public prosecutor's recommendation of solutions and preventive measures, these recommendations have fallen on deaf ears.

8559

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MINISTER PREDICTS IMPROVED GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 84 p 8

[Interview with Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, by Mahmud Sadiq "Red Tape and Bureaucracy Will Disappear Within 5 Years; Economic Openness Is Now In The Production Stage"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Egypt's Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Administrative Development Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Egyptian government is in the process of issuing standardized guidelines for general government policies, in order to define the goals it wants to achieve in the coming phase and the means of implementing them, so that general state policy will not change with each ministerial change.

During his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he added that the first goal of the Egyptian government in the coming stage is to achieve an average growth rate of 9 percent in fixed prices, to provide domestic job opportunities for about 400,000 citizens, and to raise the level of services across the board.

The cabinet affairs minister said, "The Egyptian government will continue to rely on private sector investments, which, along with currency transfers by Egyptians working overseas, amount to about 24 billion Egyptian pounds. In addition, the public sector's administrative methods will be improved, so that the 19 billion pounds invested by this sector can realize a net return of 300 million pounds, or 1.5 percent."

He added, "Within 5 years, the rate of return will rise to at least 12 percent, and red tape and governmental complications will disappear."

[Question] Arab public opinion has no definite notion of what the minister of state for cabinet affairs does. Is it a purely regulatory position, or does it have political aspects as well?

[Answer] The role of the minister of cabinet affairs can be defined as follows. First, he is responsible for coordinating ministers and ministries. There are some matters where coordination is crucial, where achieving coordination quickly is extremely important to the efficiency of the department. For example, a ministry might request foreign currency appropriations, which must be approved by the Economy Ministry. Therefore, coordinating that ministry's desires with the resources of the Economy Ministry is imperative.

Coordination Is Essential

Therefore, coordination is essential and, as the history of administration tells us, can be achieved through bureaus and committees or through mutual understanding of what is required, after which the two sides which must be coordinated get together and decide on the matter. What is new about what I am doing is that there are absolutely no bureaucratic exchanges in coordinating the ministries; it is all accomplished through personal contact.

Secondly, the cabinet affairs minister attends the meetings of the ministerial committees and the cabinet. The assumption is that whenever one goes higher up in the organizational framework, whatever decisions the lower levels cannot make are inevitably left to the higher levels, and the function of the leaders at the tip of the pyramid is limited to thinking about how to make progress and settle the principal issues. So, I have to start out by solving all sorts of matters so that only the principal, crucial issues of common concern to the various ministries are left to the cabinet to decide, so that their discussions can be productive.

Now that the government statement is finished, the matter of prime concern to me is drawing up the executive program for each session of each ministry.

Third, I conduct studies on all sorts of topics before they are discussed or submitted to the cabinet. Fortunately, over the last 10 years, I have conducted 400 million pounds worth of studies covering all facets of Egyptian life, most of them when I was working in the private sector.

Therefore, my third main duty is to establish a data and information bank for the cabinet, so that whenever any matter is submitted, we can put the relevant study at the disposal of the minister concerned and the entire cabinet.

My fourth duty is to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of ministerial committees and the cabinet.

[Question] Now that ministerial committees have been abolished, do you find it difficult to follow up the implementation of your ministerial responsibilities?

[Answer] The committees within the cabinet study specific issues before they are submitted to the cabinet. The measures which we will begin drawing up, and which the prime minister is insisting on, include recording the policies to which each minister is committed to and putting them in writing, so that these policies will not change each time the minister changes, and so that policies will be derived from studies.

[Question] Is this the first time you have followed this method?

[Answer] God willing, we will draw up a final draft of what we call the "policy guideline," which will be discussed by the policy committee and the

cabinet. After that, it will be published and disseminated as established general state policy, so that everyone will know that when the minister changes the policy will not change.

[Question] Who will prepare this study?

[Answer] Specialists within each ministry will prepare the study within the general context of cabinet policy. We have already agreed on its basic contents, which means that we can begin preparing the policy guidelines to be included, which are nothing more than the goals which we are obliged to achieve over the next 5 years. In order to achieve these goals, we will determine which fields require clearly formulated, established policies.

[Question] What must be achieved over the next 5 years as general state policy?

[Answer] The first goal is achieving an average growth rate of 9 percent in fixed prices, once a 1 percent rate of population increase is achieved. The second goal is achieving domestic job opportunities for at least 400,000 Egyptian citizens each year. The third goal is improving the level of services provided in all fields.

[Question] What preparations has the Egyptian government made in order to achieve these three goals?

[Answer] Greater efforts and the application of modern administrative principles.

Four Basic Dossiers

[Question] Which dossiers are you studying now?

[Answer] Right now, in my second capacity of "administrative development" I am working on six different aspects, and therefore I am handling six different dossiers. As I understand it, administrative development is the utilization of the fundamentals of modern administration to manage the society's resources. This is opposed to many people's understanding of administrative development as improving the governmental structure. The private sector has such resources, and therefore I must work with it to determine how to best use private sector resources in the interest of the state.

Suffice it to say that the Egyptian private sector has deposits of about 12 billion pounds. Expatriate Egyptians' deposits also amount to 12 billion pounds. Therefore, how can any minister deny the private sector any role in searching for the best way to utilize these resources? For this reason, one of my basic concerns is to create a better economic climate so as to direct these funds towards production in Egypt.

Now we come to the decisions and steps which must be carried out to promote private investment in land reclamation. There are about 1.2 million feddans

of reclaimable land, there is a lot of money in the banks which could be directed towards land reclamation, and there are also people who are prepared to invest these funds in land reclamation. The problem is to get someone to bring these three elements together and create a suitable climate for them. This is the central point of my job, and it is my first dossier.

The second dossier is the "public sector" dossier. The public sector has investments of about 19 billion pounds in fixed prices, with a market value of 38 billion pounds. By the end of the plan, their book value will amount to 38 billion pounds and their market value 72 billion pounds. No development minister can disregard these sums. How can we manage this money to serve Egypt?

Public sector investments amount to 190 billion pounds, and the net income is about 300 million pounds, or 1.5 percent. I have promised the prime minister and the cabinet that through our efforts, this income will be raised from 300 to 600 million pounds.

[Question] How?

[Answer] I have drawn up a work program which will be applied to every public sector company to raise revenues and reduce expenditures. Each company will have six persons to implement this program, three from within the company and three outside experts, one to look after engineering, another to look after environmental matters, and a third whose primary concern will be the financial aspects. The task of this integrated team will be to increase the company's productivity. I have set down these duties in writing. Similarly, if a private sector company suffers losses, I will be required to transform it into a successful company.

My third dossier is the utilization of human resources. There are 47 million Egyptians, of whom 12 million are employed. This means that the work force constitutes one quarter of the population--as if each individual were carrying four persons on his shoulders. To a certain extent, this ratio is smaller among the advanced societies.

In order to increase the gross national product and family income, more people must be employed. This means that job opportunities must be created for these people. I have several means at my disposal.

Either non-productive jobs are created within the government administration, or investment projects are created, which requires money, or individuals are encouraged to work at home, which is an approach followed in several countries and which has been proven successful. Two years ago it was applied in some Egyptian villages on a limited scale, and we are at present working to make the project a success. As an experiment, we will be concentrating on two governorates.

We are also thinking of making use of the 150,000 mosques in Egypt as social centers, each of which will have classrooms, a workshop, a clinic, a library, and so forth.

The fourth dossier is the improvement of services in government agencies. Several sites--post offices, land registries--have been selected and will be provided with the material and manpower resources to enable them to reach the service level of offices throughout the world.

[Question] Egypt is already plagued with huge government expenditures. Where will the money needed for this improvement of services come from?

[Answer] About 200 million pounds have been allocated for government training, which I can use, since I will be training people at their places of work.

Wages and Prices

[Question] The wage and price issue is occupying the thoughts of 47 million Egyptians at home and abroad. What must the state do to eliminate this problem?

[Answer] The only solution is production. Prices rise 20 percent each year, and therefore per capita income has to rise at a rate higher than the increase in prices. Increased production is the only way to achieve this. Fixing prices by means of "compulsory pricing" merely creates a black market, and will never solve the problem.

[Question] There are some gaps in the laws which regulate the activities of public sector companies. What has been done about them?

[Answer] When I took over the ministry, I discovered that a law had been passed providing for developing the public sector by means of authorities, according to which these companies were virtually holding companies. Luckily, the executive bylaws for this law, such as the organizational structure for the authorities and companies, had never been passed. So I reorganized them along the lines of the private sector concept, so that these companies could realize a higher margin of profit.

[Question] You mentioned earlier that the cabinet was in the process of issuing policy guidelines, so that a change of minister would not change policy. Don't the amendments you have now introduced into the public sector development law stray somewhat from the concept "the policy stays the same even though the ministers change?"

[Answer] Not at all. These amendments came well within the framework of general state policy, which holds that the public sector plan is a fundamental economic unit for the state. Therefore, it is a concept which will inevitably realize greater profits. The bylaws explain the law, which lays down the executive points.

[Question] At what point will we be able to say that Egypt has a strong, profitable public sector?

[Answer] Within 5 years, the rate of return should have risen to 12 percent from its present rate of 1.5 percent. In other words, it will have reached the minimum required rate of return, equivalent to the return which could be obtained if we put this money in the banks.

Openness and the Administrative Revolution

[Question] Economic openness has been accused of being largely responsible for slowing down production in some stages. What do you think?

[Answer] I don't believe that there are many disadvantages to consumption openness, because it is a natural thing. Openness has to begin with consumption, and as long as this is the case, the producers of those consumer goods will need plants to produce the raw materials. History tells us that trade opened up markets, which became the justification for establishing industries.

[Question] But won't they remain marginal industries?

[Answer] On the contrary. The glass industry is a good example, for the components used in it are products of agriculture. The important thing is that industries should rely on national resources.

[Question] "Administrative Revolution" was a big slogan in the past. Are you still calling for it?

[Answer] No. A slogan, if we want it to be realistic, must be within our capacities, and is only as good as our abilities to achieve it. What we say today is that we will achieve as much success as possible by developing the public sector. Therefore, we don't consider it a revolution, but a 5-year development. A revolution would be for the public sector to take on a better shape, and this, naturally, we cannot achieve.

8559

CSO: 4504/54

WAFD MEMBER OUSTED OVER NILE VALLEY PARLIAMENT ISSUE

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 84 pp 1,2

[Article: "Siraj-al-Din's Decision To Dismiss His Brother Sparks Violent Partisan Controversy In Egypt"]

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the full details of the story behind the recent split which took place within the ranks of the Egyptian opposition New Wafd Party when Wafd Party Chief and Supreme Authority Member Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din decided to dismiss his brother, Member of Parliament Yasin Siraj-al-Din, from the party, and gave him the choice of remaining in Parliament as an independent or joining some other party. This was the first incident of its kind to happen in the Egyptian Parliament since the new election law was passed.

This decision has stirred up major political controversy among all the Egyptian opposition parties, especially since it occurred at the same time as the Tajammu' Party's decision to confirm the suspension of Dr Milad Hana's membership.

The story began when the Egyptian government chose Counselor Mumtaz Nassar, president of the Wafd Party's Parliamentary Authority and leader of the opposition in Parliament, and Council of Deputies Members Mustafa Tawil and Yasin Siraj-al-Din, to represent the Egyptian opposition at the meetings of the Nile Valley Parliament.

The Wafd Party's Supreme Authority immediately declared that the three would not participate in the meetings, saying that the choice should have come from within the party and not from the government. Yasin Siraj-al-Din opposed the decision of his party authority and started participating in the Nile Valley Parliament meetings, while the other two members submitted to the party decision.

The next step was an evening meeting of the Wafd Party's Supreme Authority the day before yesterday, during which it was decided to remove Yasin Siraj-al-Din from membership in the party and its parliamentary authority. This created political repercussions in Egyptian partisan circles, especially since right after the latest parliamentary elections in Egypt it had been rumored that Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din would leave the party presidency to his brother Yasin.

Yasin Siraj-al-Din's first reaction was to issue a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT to the effect that the Supreme Authority's decision was a mistake, that he had not attended the meeting, and that he had not changed his mind.

Speculation and questions sprang up as to the fate of Yasin Siraj-al-Din and his new political coloration, arose, and other parties began contactin him in order to get him to join them. One such party was the Mustaqbal Party, which is in the process of establishing itself after having split from the Wafd.

In his statement, Yasin Siraj-al-Din stressed that over the past 2 days some Wafd leaders and parliamentary deputies had supported him as to the correctness of his stand and their opposition to the Supreme Authority's decision. He added that he was still the Wafd Party's Cairo secretary, and would not hand over any records to the party until after the party's General Assembly met, because the Supreme Authority's decision to remove him was groundless in form and substance.

He added that all the opposition parties are suffering from internal conflicts not obvious on the surface, and said, "My ouster is due to just such a conflict." He refused to explain the reasons for the Wafd Party's internal conflicts, saying that he would announce them but not just yet.

Yasin: The Decision Is Groundless

Yasin said, "Article Six of the Wafd's internal bylaws says that I must present myself before the Supreme Authority to defend my stand. The Supreme Authority's decision is not only a violation of party rules, but is contrary to the democratic principles which the Wafd proclaims." He said, "My final decision depends on circumstances, because no member can be removed except with the approval of the General Assembly. There is no specific date for their meeting; they meet whenever necessary."

With reference to his joining the Mustaqbal Party, which includes a group of Wafdistis opposed to the policy of the New Wafd, he refused to say whether he would be one of its leaders or not, and emphatically denied that he had joined the Labor Party or the National Party.

Wafd Party Vice President Dr Wahid Ra'fat announced that the party would inform the president of the Egyptian Parliament of the Supreme Authority's decision to remove Yasin Siraj-al-Din from membership in the party, so that legal and constitutional measures could be taken with respect to his membership in Parliament.

Wahid Ra'fat Explains the Crisis

Wafd Party Vice President Dr Wahid Ra'fat outlined the conflict between the Wafd Party's Supreme Authority and Party Member Yasin Siraj-al-Din, saying, "We were suprised when Yasin Siraj-al-Din was named to Egypt's delegation to the United Nations, for we had expected that the party's opinion would be sought as to who would represent it. We never thought that we would learn of this decision from the newspapers."

He added, "Party Chief Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din told Head of Parliament Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and the Foreign Ministry that the Wafd did not object to this principle, because it is primarily a national duty, but it would have been better to get the party's opinion so that we could be sure that the best choice had been made. The candidate should not be indebted to the government for his selection, for his first loyalty must be to the party."

Dr Wahid Ra'fat pointed out that although this matter first arose during President Husni Mubarak's meeting with the head of the Wafd Party, it has come up again in the Nile Valley Parliament. This has raised many doubts, and has caused many party members to protest the choice of Yasin Siraj-al-Din a second time as Egypt's representative. The party leadership has even been defamed, and the party has been called the Siraj-al-Din Party. This has forced the party leadership to exonerate itself by protesting to the head of Parliament.

He said that Mumtaz Nassar and Mustafa al-Tawil refrained from attending the sessions of the Nile Valley Parliament, whereas Yasin Siraj-al-Din insisted on attending. This is a clear violation of the decision of the party's Supreme Authority, which requested the 3 candidates to resign from the Nile Valley Parliament so that the party could make its own nominations for the coming session.

Two Choices for Yasin

Wahid Ra'fat said that Yasin Siraj-al-Din considers this decision an insult to his personal honor which will affect his future, and has announced that he will not withdraw and will not abide by the decision. After the matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Supreme Authority, the decision was taken to remove Yasin Siraj-al-Din from the Supreme Authority.

As for his seat in the Egyptian Parliament, Dr Wahid Ra'fat mentioned that Yasin Siraj-al-Din is faced with two choices: either he continues as an independent, or he joins one of the other parties represented in Parliament. In either case, Parliament will have to review its present structure, for this is the first incident to have occurred in Parliament since the passage of the election law, Law 114 of 1983.

At the same time, Dr Ahmad Salamah, deputy director of the Egyptian Consultative Council's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, stresses that the decision by the Wafd Party Supreme Authority does not affect Yasin Siraj-al-Din's membership in Parliament. He said that the existing election law states that when nominated, a member has to belong to a party, but places no such condition on his continuing as Parliamentary member for the duration of his term in case he is removed from his party.

Head of the Wafd's Parliamentary Authority and Parliamentary Opposition Leader Mumtaz Nassar says that Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din submitted to the Supreme Authority Yasin Siraj-al-Din's insistence on participating in the Nile Valley

Parliament meetings, and recapitulated the arguments between them. The Supreme Authority considers this dispute a violation of party rules, subject to Article Six of the party's organizational bylaws, which stipulate the punishments for such violations, which include dismissal from the party.

He added, "The Supreme Authority's decision must be submitted to the General Assembly for approval. The Yasin Siraj-al-Din question is one of the most important issues the party has ever faced, and many members of the Wafd's Parliamentary Authority have advised it to retract its decision. However, others apparently approve of this position.

'Alawi Hafiz Comments

Prominent Wafd Party Delegate 'Alawi Hafiz said, "As a party, we may have made mistakes, and one such mistake consists of Yasin Siraj-al-Din's having been the backbone of the Wafd Party. Therefore, I suggested to the Supreme Authority that enough blame had been directed, and that it should listen to his point of view and accept his reasons for insisting on membership in the Nile Valley Parliament. We accept the principle of belonging to and participating in the parliament, but we refuse to have nominations made for us." He asked Yasin Siraj-al-Din to not join any other party.

The Muslim Brotherhood Representative

Muslim Brotherhood Representative to the Wafd Party Muhammad al-Mismari said, "I sensed that something was going on inside the Wafd Party. We in the Muslim Brotherhood are cooperating with the party within the parliamentary context, and we are committed to the party's program. When it comes to speaking up in Parliament, we speak out freely, and when it comes to carrying out decisions, we adhere to the party's decision. We cannot allow any opportunity for schism. We shall never resign from the party, and we have never done anything which would lead to a split. Although we were not present when the Supreme Authority made its decision with respect to Yasin Siraj-al-Din, we support it, and we hope that the split will be mended soon."

Ibrahim Shukri, head of the opposition Labor Party, which was rumored to have been the first party to contact Yasin Siraj-al-Din, said, "One thing that we have to agree on is that the Wafd Party's Supreme Authority maintained silence during the meeting in which the three Wafdists were selected, and raised no objections to any one of them. Only later did the Supreme Authority object to the council's nomination of these persons."

The case of Dr Milad Hana, member of the opposition Grouping Party Central Committee, began a long time ago, with President Husni Mubarak's selection of Milad Hana as one of the 10 Parliamentary members he is allowed to appoint. After that, the Grouping Party decided to suspend Milad Hana's membership until a meeting could be held to make a final decision.

The final chapter in the story coincided with Siraj-al-Din's removal from the Wafd Party, with the Grouping Party Central Committee's decision to divest Dr Milad Hana of all leadership positions and to consider him an ordinary party member.

DELHI PAPER VIEWS U.S. RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK251300 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 15 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Rai Singh: "Danger to New Detente"]

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's repeated offer of a pact of peace, friendship and cooperation to Pakistan despite Islamabad's known anti-India stance and activities, is yet another indication of India's efforts to push the new detente forward on a regional level. But a new element in the form of the U.S. offer of a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan in exchange for a Pak promise not to proceed with the indigenous production of nuclear weapons appears to have changed the scenario.

Although official confirmation is still lacking, and it would as usual take some time before the confirmation is made known through Washington's "official leak," the Pak Urdu daily NAWA-E-WAQT report appears to be true in as much as Washington had earlier mooted such umbrella offers to others, including India. The offer itself intrudes upon the principle of bilateralism which India has been so keen to apply in its relations with Pakistan, specially in the wake of the Simla Agreement of 1972.

The offer implies a vigorous U.S. role in South Asia through Pakistan, first, because the acceptance of such an offer by Pakistan, which is still awaited, would mean U.S. military presence in Pakistan to check, monitor and assess the size of the umbrella required. Second, Pak progress in the manufacture of nuclear weapons would have to be controlled, if not prevented, checked, and verified on the spot, and this again would call for the American presence. In a way, such a presence would deter Pakistan from going nuclear, and this, perhaps, might lead Pakistan either to reject the umbrella, or the United States may be persuaded to modify the American presence suitably.

The chances of Pakistan accepting the N-umbrella offer may not be too bright, but in the given situation, Islamabad may exercise the option in order to oblige President Reagan, who seems cornered by Senators Cranston, Glenn and others on the issue of Pak plans to go nuclear. It is apparent now that unless President Reagan is able to prove to the Senate the bonafides of Pakistan not to go nuclear, the U.S. strategy of propping up Pakistan as the South Asian flank of the U.S. Central Command, under which the Rapid Deployment Force is now operating, would have to be drastically revised.

Of course, President Reagan has the option to certify the continuance of U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan as essential to U.S. strategic interests, and thus override any legislative sanction against Islamabad, but as far as possible the U.S. President would prefer to portray General Zia as a good boy prepared to accept a good offer.

It may be recalled that besides the F-16s which Pakistan continues to receive regularly from Washington, Pakistan has been promised Hawkeye planes along with an option through Saudi Arabia on the advanced early warning AWACS. This has given Pakistan a definite edge over India though with this sophisticated air thrust, it cannot hope to take on the Soviet Air Force. The induction of new missiles and other armament and equipment has increased considerably the teeth-to-tail effectiveness of the Pak Army and Navy.

Most of these supplies are obtainable from the United States; hence there is more likelihood of Pakistan accepting the U.S. N-umbrella offer. Besides, the pay-master for Pakistan's arms purchases in respect of many large number of items has been Saudi Arabia, and as the Saudis are beholden to Washington in ways more than one, the pressure on Pakistan for accepting the U.S. offer would be all the more favourable. It should, therefore, surprise no one if after an initial demonstration of injured innocence, Pakistan quietly accepts the U.S. offer.

The umbrella offer cannot be said to protect Pakistan against a Soviet nuclear attack because Moscow has not threatened Pakistan, nor is there any likelihood of such a threat materializing in the near future despite Pakistan's position as the so-called front-line state. The Soviet position in Afghanistan is, of course, constantly undermined by Pakistan, more in order to derive the dividends from Washington than to fight for the independence of Afghanistan as such. The Soviet Union knows this; hence its perception of the threat from Pakistan does not warrant use of nuclear force.

In fact, it does not even warrant use of conventional force against Pakistan. Thus the U.S. N-umbrella offer is not meant to counter the Soviet Union. Some reliable sources say that of late Pakistan has been seen warming up to Moscow by displaying a more reasonable attitude at the UN-sponsored talks on Afghanistan.

The plea by some that the U.S. offer was to provide a guarantee against the possible pre-emptive Israeli strike against Pakistan nuclear complex does not sound plausible simply because Israel does not and now cannot embark upon such ventures without a nod, if not a definite consent, from Washington. So, apparently there is no need for such a guarantee.

It may also be noted that Pakistan's attitude towards Israel has undergone a definite change, and even on the most sensitive question of Palestine, General Ziaul Haq is not prepared to go whole hog with the radical Arabs. In an interview to the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA' last March, General Zia said: "We don't want, and are unable, to throw Israel into the sea and should cooperate and plan to reach a practical solution to the Palestinian crisis." The Pakistan president added: "As we cannot restore the whole of Palestine, we should be content with part of Palestine which can be the homeland of all Palestinians."

This line fits in largely with the As-Sadat-Mubarak Palestinian stand and would please Israel. Thus, it is not possible to accept the plea that the U.S. offer was meant to secure Pakistan against an Israeli pre-emptive strike against Pak nuclear complex.

The obvious purpose behind the U.S. efforts to bolster Pakistan's military machine on par with the NATO partners was primarily aimed at India. The aim did not appear to be to subject India to a nuclear blast but to bring it around to Washington's point of view on the overall concept of the U.S. "Strategic Consensus."

Now one can relate the recent Washington leak about the difficulty experienced by the U.S. spy satellite in spotting the Indian Jaguars because of the so-called cloud cover leading to the guess that the missing Jaguars must be on a preemptive strike mission against the Pak nuclear complex. The purpose of the leak was many-fold, but the main purpose appeared to be to drive home the point that but for the U.S. patronage Pakistan would be a sitting duck for the Indian planes, and thus to make Pakistan feel all the more dependent for its very survival on the United States.

It was also to prepare the ground for U.S. offer of nuclear umbrella, again to demonstrate how concerned was Washington for the security of Pakistan, and to rub in the point that Pak nuclear preparations could be snuffed out of existence if the vigilant U.S. eagle was not there to watch out for General Zia. Every bit of the U.S. ploy has now fallen in its place. In the process, Washington has also shown spying on India for the benefit of its client state of Pakistan has now become a routine matter, and India better watch out.

This new element has added to the problems of the South Asian security because once Pakistan accepts the U.S. N-umbrella even tacitly [as printed] an alibi would be available to Washington to hold out nuclear threats against India even when the Indo-Pak conflict might remain confined to conventional weapons. Furthermore, the possibility of internal political dissension assuming a country-wide convulsion cannot be ruled out in spite of General Zia's hold over the Pak Army.

In such an eventuality, Washington's N-umbrella would not save its client though it might help Washington to direct such a move to the desired end through U.S. presence. All in all a new danger to the new detente has emerged in the region.

In conclusion it may be observed that the pro forma denial issued on October 12 by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi did not deny the fact that President Ronald Reagan had in a recent letter to General Ziaul Haq dwelt on the subject of U.S.-Pak military security and cooperation. It does not deny either the fact that the Reagan administration has been hard put to justify before the Senate the continued U.S. economic and military aid and assistance in the face of Pakistan's preparations to manufacture its nuclear bomb.

Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has rightly observed that the United States was ignoring its own evidence confirming Pakistan's preparations for the nuclear weapons programme. Unless hard evidence to the contrary is available the substance of the NAWA-E WAQT story on the U.S. offer of a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan cannot be rejected out of hand and more so when such U.S. offers had been made earlier to other countries.

DELHI DEPLORES REMARKS BY U. S. ENVOY IN PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 15. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, called the U. S. Ambassador, Mr. Harry Barnes, today to voice the Government's "serious concern" at the recent statement made by the American envoy in Islamabad, Mr. Dean Hinton, that the U. S. would come to Pakistan's help if India committed aggression.

The Indian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. K. S. Bajpai, has been asked to take up the matter with the State Department and convey the Government's strong resentment over this attempt to portray India as a potential aggressor against Pakistan.

An official spokesman described this insinuation as "motivated and reprehensible" which was presumably intended to justify in advance the supply of more arms to Pakistan, including highly sophisticated weaponry like the Grumman E2-C Hawkeye aircraft equipped with airborne early warning systems for tracking the movements of foreign planes and guiding its own interceptors to attack them.

The Indian embassies in Islamabad and Washington have confirmed that President Reagan had been in correspondence with General Zia-ul-Haq about Pakistan's defence requirements, but the Government of India has no reliable information whether the U. S. has offered or Pakistan has sought a nuclear umbrella as reported by the leading Pakistan newspaper Nawa Waqt in a despatch from Washington.

The spokesman said that it was a matter of "deep regret" that inspite of the Government's forthright denial of the inspired stories that India was planning pre-emptive air strikes against Pakistan's nuclear installations, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Yaqub Ali Khan, should have thought it proper to state in Washington that the possibility of such air attacks was viewed by his Government as a serious threat to Pakistan.

The Government of India can only deplore such "false and irresponsible" statements, the spokesman added, because they vitiate the atmosphere and generate tension. This strongly worded observation was evidently aimed at getting the message across to both Islamabad and Washington that the talk of a pre-emptive Indian attack was intended to serve as a pretext for extending the U. S. military aid to Pakistan.

well beyond the \$3.2 billion (Rs. 3800 crores) programme now under implementation.

It was indicated quite clearly that the recent meeting in New York between Mr. G. Parthasarathi and Mr. Yaqub Khan, has not helped in any way to clear the Indian and Pakistani apprehensions about each other's attitudes. There is no hope at all now of a resumption of the stalled no-war dialogue in the near future in the wake of the strong Indian statements about Pakistan's intentions.

The Indo-Pakistan situation will remain frozen for the present with no new initiatives from either side for avoiding further strains in their relations. It would not be too bad if the relations remain frigid without any risks of renewed tensions.

But the recent Pakistani provocations along the Line of Actual Control in Kashmir, especially in the Saichin glacier area towards the Karakorum have led to some suspicions in India about the possible motivations behind these incidents. The Pakistan Government has been accusing Indian troops of intruding deep into disputed territory in this glacier area and setting up posts there.

Fortunately, there have been no clashes along the Punjab and Rajasthan borders, despite heavy concentration of forces.

CSO: 4600/1064

PRESS REPORTS MEETING OF BJP NATIONAL COUNCIL

Vajpayee Opening Speech

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] **Pune, Oct 12** — A perspective of national coalition Government at the Centre based on a common programme in cooperation with all the Opposition parties to replace the Congress-I was held out before his partymen by BJP president Atal Behari Vajpayee today.

In his presidential speech, delivered before the national council of the party, held at Ekmatanagar in Pune, Mr Vajpayee said "in the immediate future I see no alternative to the formation of a coalition government at the Centre. After the next election we must go through that phase, and at the same time we must preserve the identity and character of a proper political party.

"Today, the most urgent need in the country is not that of a single party but that of a single programme to save the nation and its system, to rescue it from economic and political chaos". He said "Andhra has shown the way. As in Andhra, democracy in India will be saved by the joint and concerted action of all Opposition parties. We must be ready for cooperation with all Opposition parties. We must be willing for a coalition based on common programme. That is the immediate task for our party. I am confident that all of us will measure up to the challenge of saving our country and its system".

The political line of cooperation with all Opposition parties propounded by Mr Vajpayee is in sharp contrast with the one of no truck with the Communists in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections held out by general secretary L K Advani at a press conference in Bombay on the eve of the Pune meeting.

His speech, a ten-page printed document is an all out attack on the domestic and foreign policy aspects of Mrs Indira Gandhi, a strident onslaught on her handling of burning issues, portraying her as a power-hungry, sectarian adventurist with regard to Sikkim, Kashmir, Punjab and Andhra, where she had thrown constitutional provisions to the winds to topple governments, holding out ominous question mark.

Was the Government experimenting, testing people's reactions, while planning for a bigger adventure at the national level? Is that why the Prime Minister recently acknowledged what was first denied that Mr Vasant Sathe had advocated a basic change in the Constitution with her consent, he asked.

Firing the pre-election salvo against the ruling party, Mr Vajpayee said in the pursuit of this goal the Government has not hesitated to twist the law, demoralise the judiciary, paralyse the bureaucracy, bully the press, divide the people, topple the governments of non-Congress-I parties, destabilise the states, instigate riots, inflame communal passions, subvert the Constitution and openly challenge the very concepts of the Indian Republic. Already the damage it has inflicted is incalculable. This Government must be thrown out of office.

On Punjab, he pointed out that according to general secretary of the ruling Congress-I the figure of the jawans killed in the Golden Temple complex as 700 which is six times more than what the White Paper disclosed. Many facts have not been revealed in that document.

Mr Vajpayee said and there has also been deliberate mis-statements.

Instead of resuming the process of exchange of views in order to find a lasting solution, the Congress-I is getting impatient to grab in Punjab again, he charged and observed that the Government has neither the capacity to curb terrorism, nor does it have the will to find a political solution.

On Assam, Mr Vajpayee did not rule out breaking out a fresh crisis and felt that no solution is in sight for that tragic State unless the present Central Government is thrown out of office.

Mr Vajpayee, during his entire speech, was silent on the functioning of the National Democratic Alliance between the BJP and the Lok Dal. There was not even a mention of the NDA in Mr Vajpayee's address, despite the fact that a personal letter to him from Lok Dal president

Charan Singh was read out to the delegates by party general secretary L K Advani at the very outset of the session.

Thanking Mr Vajpayee for extending him an "affectionate invitation" to attend the BJP national council session Mr Charan Singh expressed inability to be present because of "extraction of some teeth today" as he was "suffering from tooth trouble for sometime past".

In his letter, which came as a pleasant surprise to the delegates, Mr Charan Singh said "We have been working together in the National Democratic Alliance for the past over one year. I am sure our cooperation will continue and we will be able to ensure the defeat of the Congress-I in the coming elections".

The BJP circles here have interpreted the Lok Dal president's letter as a positive step to clear the misunderstanding in certain quarters on the relationship between the BJP and the Lok Dal.

The BJP moved closer to its political ally, Lok Dal, by adopting a new economic programme giving "top priority" to agricultural developments, adds UNI.

An economic resolution, adopted on the first day of its three-day national council session here, said "the party strongly feels that in order to improve the quality of life in the rural areas, agricultural development should be the first charge on the national exchequer".

Virtually borrowing the Lok Dal's arguments in favour of the farm sector, the resolution noted that the share of the agricultural sector in India's gross national product (GNP) at the 1970-71 prices had fallen from 58 per cent in 1950-51 to 38 per cent in 1983-84.

The resolution, moved by former Union Minister Satish Agarwal, made several demands including remunerative prices for agricultural produce, adequate supplies of farm inputs, distribution of surplus land among the landless farm-hands in five years, and introduction of "antyyodaya" and food-for-work schemes.

The resolution also drew attention to the alarming external debt situation and depreciation of the rupee by more than 50 per cent over the last five years.

Resolution on Election Strategy

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 84 p 8

[Text]

PUNE, Oct. 14.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to further the cause of "alliance politics in the country" even as it decided upon the objective of both ousting the Congress (I) party from power and also securing for itself a "sizable presence" in the eighth Lok Sabha.

However, the BJP continues to be determined that it shall not go in for any alliance with any of the Communist parties but would have no objection to seat adjustments to defeat the Congress (I).

A resolution on the party's electoral strategy adopted unanimously today at the end of the National Council session here recommended a four-point plan for an Opposition coalition based on a common minimum programme and the 1977 Janata manifesto. The Opposition should declare their willingness for the coalition.

After the resolution was adopted, the BJP President, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee said his party would unite all Opposition parties on a sound basis to resist the attempts to impose a presidential form of Government. Neither would it allow any partisan considerations to influence its conduct if the country really faced a threat to its security. Mr. Vajpayee was firm that it was only a bogey of the ruling party timed to coincide with the poll.

The four point formula also wanted the Opposition to work out jointly seat adjustments taking into account the election results since 1980 and a party's performance at these elections. It suggested that seat adjustments be made at the State-level itself. But failure to

arrive at adjustments in one State should not influence efforts in other States. The leader of the coalition should be chosen by the elected representatives of the coalition constituents.

Several members of the National Council were firm in their demand that the BJP should not permit anything including the personal ambition of any leader to affect the prospect of a good fight in the elections.

Amendment: However, despite a near vocal demand that Mr. Vajpayee be empowered to consider the response of the other parties since this was the last pre-poll session of the National Council, the BJP chief refused to accept the proposal (though it was part of the draft resolution) since at least three members of the Council wanted a body and not an individual to be associated with such a task. This was the only amendment in the resolution accepted by the leadership. Other changes sought by the members were not accepted.

The view of the leadership was expressed by Mr. V. K. Malhotra, the General Secretary of the National Democratic Alliance when he said that most of the demands for changes were for incorporating the already accepted and well known stances of the BJP. One demand related to not having any truck with the Communists and smaller parties that had no basis in reality but were extensions of frustrated Congress (I) men. All of them made oblique references to the NDA also.

Ties with Telugu Desam: Later, Mr. Vajpayee pointed out that the BJP would certainly have

an alliance with the Telugu Desam and he was confident that the association with the Congress (S) would be smooth since Mr. Sharad Pawar had openly commended the four point plan even before its adoption by the National Council. While it is obvious that the implementation of the National Council's mandate to the party depended entirely on the response from other parties, the BJP was itself determined to do its best to ensure that the "people's desire for a change in New Delhi" was fulfilled.

"Willing to go it alone": If for any reason, the idea of seat adjustments and alliance with various Opposition parties did not materialise the BJP is willing to go it alone. The party's influence and strength was on the increase and not confined to the cities alone, according to Mr. Vajpayee.

The National Council members had demanded that this be included in the resolution itself, but Mr. Vajpayee announced it in the concluding remarks at the meeting.

CSO: 4600/1063

CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL WORKS OUT ELECTION STRATEGY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by B. N. Uniyal]

[Text] The CPI has resolved that while seeking to defeat the Congress-I in the next Lok Sabha election, it will also work to defeat the BJP in as many seats as possible, its main aim being to increase the Left strength.

The CPI National Council worked out its election strategy and objectives at a three-day meeting which concluded on Saturday. A resolution adopted at the meeting straight away rejects proposals for an all-in Opposition unity, ruling out any electoral adjustment with the BJP, which it has characterised as the champion of "pro-imperialist, communal and fissiparous" forces.

The National Council has also resolved that it will not go in for a joint front with any other party except the Left parties. However, depending on the varying conditions in different States, it will go in for flexible seat adjustments with other parties excepting, of course, the BJP in such a way that such adjustments do not commit its support to any particular combination.

Rejecting the BJP proposition floated at its recent conference at Pune for an all-in Opposition alliance for a coalition Government at the Centre after the next election, the National Council stresses in the resolution that "while this (that is, Mrs Indira Gandhi's) Government requires to be replaced, the basic problems of the country cannot be solved by replacing it by another bourgeois combination. For this, we need a Left and democratic alternative".

However, realising that a Left and democratic front has not yet emerged as a viable force at the all-India plane, the resolution lays down a 10-point alternative set of policies which it says can become the basis for its support for the formation of a Government after the election. The 10 points include support for peace, non-alignment and anti-imperialist struggle, friendship with the socialist countries and all other anti-imperialist forces, abandoning of the present export-oriented economy, thorough agrarian reforms, opposition to communalism,

restructuring of Centre-State relations on the basis of the consensus arrived at the Srinagar conclave, strengthening of parliamentary democracy, enactment of an anti-defection law, and repeal of all undemocratic laws.

The CPI further says that without tying down itself to support any particular combination, it can extend support to "the formation of a Government which broadly stands for these policies and moves in the direction of their implementation". In conclusion, the resolution says that "through a policy of suitable seat adjustments the CPI will try to win the largest number of seats for itself and for other Left and democratic parties, while working to defeat the Congress-I and the BJP in as many seats as possible".

Referring to the current unity efforts of the various non-BJP Opposition groups, the resolution says that "such efforts at building Opposition unity with the sole idea of avoiding division of votes, ignoring policies and programmes, suffer from great weaknesses, which is being utilised both by the Congress-I and the BJP". What the country needs is not the type of Government which the BJP proposes but a different type of alternative in order to grapple with its problems" for which it has put forth its 10-point programme.

The discussion on the party's election strategy provided the CPI leaders an opportunity for a critical appraisal of its performance and approach to different national issues in recent months. The leadership faced sharp criticism from quite a large number of council members, particularly, on the party's ambivalent attitude towards the Akalis in Punjab as also on the basic issue of its policy towards the various national issues like the threat posed from different sides to the nation's unity and integrity.

Though the number of members who spoke extremely critically of the leadership's attitude and approach to various issues and parties was quite large, quite a number of them did eventually vote for the resolution. Some of them who

criticised the leadership but voted for the resolution included Mr Shudhir Mukherjee (MP), Mr D Pandiyan (TN) and Mr Avtar Singh Malhotra (Punjab). About 14 council members, who had moved several amendments to the resolution, abstained from voting. They included Mr Gopal Banerjee, Mrs Renu Chakravathy (both WB), Mr G Yallamanda Reddy (AP), Mr Bhogendra Jha (Bihar), Mr Prabhat Kar, Mr M Kalyanasundaram (TN), Mr Satyapal Dang, Mr Jagjit Singh (both Punjab) and Mr Mohit Sen.

The basic argument of the critics was that the dividing line in the country today has to be between all patriotic forces that stand for the defence of national integrity and security and the forces of imperialism and its abettors and accomplices in the country. They further argued that it could not be denied that Mrs Indira Gandhi's policies were broadly anti-imperialist and in the interest of the defence of national security.

The critics did admit that the undemocratic methods by which Mrs Gandhi had been running her party and the Government as also her indiscriminately non-cooperative attitude towards all Opposition parties was damaging the task of forging the unity of all patriotic forces. While admitting this they said that the struggle against the anti-democratic policies of Mrs Gandhi had to continue but that must be done in clear demarcation from the pro-imperialist rightist forces.

That, the critics emphasised, needed to be done by bringing positive pressure on the ruling party and its Government for the correct solution of problems.

The critics did not demand a vote on their various amendments but made their protest known by abstaining from the vote on the resolution. The abstention does not, however, mean that the critics were wholly dissatisfied with the resolution, one of them said. He added that while they would have wanted the resolution to more clearly delineate the party's position bringing it to the conclusion they had come to, they were happy that the resolution was rather soft on the Congress-I and Mrs Indira Gandhi and clear and categorical on the BJP.

CSO: 4600/1065

DEFENSE ANALYST VIEWS INDIA'S 'STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT'

BK211300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 20 Oct 84

["Spotlight" program: "Strategic Environment of India" by Major General P. M. Pasricha, retired, deputy director of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis]

[Text] It would not be an exaggeration to say that our current strategic environment has never been as inclement as it is today since we became independent. It has been so for the last several years, specially since the year 1979, which is notable for two major international events which have had great impact on our strategic environment. These are the Iranian Revolution and the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan. Beginning with the oil crisis of 1973 followed by the Khomeyni revolution, the American hostage crisis, the Afghanistan episode, the Iran-Iraq war, the escalation of a belligerent mood in the United States, the crisis in Kampuchea, and China's misadventure in Vietnam are events which have fouled our environment progressively.

The internal scene in the country is also clouded. Starting with trouble in Assam, which is still to be satisfactorily resolved, we have had to go through the trauma of Punjab. In the east, while the Mizo situation seems to be taking a favorable turn, we have the ugly spectacle of the Tripura National Volunteers' agitation with possible external linkages. Although most of these factors have remained manageable, there is as yet no evidence of any respite. Indeed, a number of developments--notably the U.S. supply of highly sophisticated weaponry to Pakistan, the prospect of Pakistan going nuclear, the recent hijackings of our aircraft to Pakistan, the suspicion of Pakistan's involvement in Punjab--have compounded the deteriorating situation.

A threat to our national security can quite easily be other than military. In this era of intervention, a foreign power can carry out through a variety of subversive activity. [sentence as heard] It needs to be emphasized that today subversion and terrorism are increasingly becoming effective tools of foreign policy making use of dissident minority groups, particularly the extremists among them, however reprehensible they may be.

As for military threat, China and Pakistan loom large over our strategic horizon. Although there are some signs of the beginning of normalization in our relations with China and the prospect is not gloomy, as yet few analysts can determine with any certainty whether harmonization of the long-term interest of China and India could be achieved in a short period of time.

Notwithstanding this, there is enough evidence of some Chinese compulsion to mend their relations with us sooner or later. This is not to say that China, for the present at least, does not pose any threat. There is indeed a threat in being which would perhaps continue till China's policy toward Southeast Asia gets stabilized. As such, it would be imprudent on our part to lower our defense profile against China. However, the political climate today does not indicate the possibility of a near-term conflict between China and India across the Himalayan frontier.

There is no gainsaying the fact that for a variety of understandable reasons Pakistan has been and still remains our principal security concern. Unfortunately, the threat from Pakistan leads to highly emotive responses.

In analyzing this threat it may be stated at the outset that in the interest of development and durable peace in the subcontinent there is no substitute for amity between India and Pakistan, as was well recognized in the Simla pact; and yet despite numerous overtures and some practical measures taken by the two countries from time to time, the level of mutual suspicions remains significantly high. For the last few years, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has managed to launch what may be termed a peace offensive against India with some success. It is not to say that Pakistan is playing a game of deceit outright. But the crucial question which defies her credibility is whether or not the Pakistani peace overtures are compatible with confidence-building measures which are a prerequisite for normalization of relations between the two countries. The first issue which poses a challenge to Pakistan's credibility is her acquisition of massive and highly sophisticated weaponry far beyond her legitimate defense needs.

While modernization could be partially justified in terms of the technological imperative, the qualitative boost in Pakistan's military prowess often gets overlooked or underplayed. Weapons systems such as the F-16, now planned to be updated further; the Harpoon missiles; the Vulcan [word indistinct] air defense equipment; Mohawk aircraft; and now the Hawkeye airborne early warning system all act as a force multiplier bestowing a capability to Pakistan to entertain aggression against us. One example alone should suffice to prove the point. The use of Hawkeye in conjunction with F-16 could emulate the Israeli technological feat of destroying 82 Syrian MIG's for the loss of 1 plane during the October '73 war.

Our perception that Pakistan just cannot afford to get into a war with the Soviet Union, except perhaps as a surrogate of America, simply rules out the use of her sophisticated weaponry against the Soviet Union. That leaves us as the only target.

Both Pakistan and the United States have variously confused this issue. However, the discounting at Lahore on 10 October by the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Deane Hinton, of any attack on Pakistan from her western borders--meaning thereby the Soviet Union--confirms our views, if at all such confirmations were needed. PAKISTAN TIMES of 11 October has attributed another assertion to Deane Hinton that America would come to Pakistan's help if India committed aggression.

Irrespective of the context of this utterance, he has clearly maligned India as a potential aggressor, to which our government has taken an exception and quite rightly too.

The import of his statement should leave little doubt about American backing to Pakistan in the event of a war with India. Barring the use of American troops, this could be total in all other respects. As it is, the most pernicious aspect of America sharing intelligence with Pakistan has already surfaced. Pakistan's intentions are also surfaced because of the high level of her defense expenditure. The latest military balance compiled by the Institute of Strategic Studies, London, reveals it to be three times that of India in per capita terms.

The second important factor which inhibits our view of Pakistan is her relentless pursuance of a nuclear weapons capability even in defiance of her mentor, the United States. This we have now to take as a working premise in our planning.

The third factor is Pakistan's reluctance to adopt quick-yielding confidence-building measures which have an appeal for the masses of India and Pakistan. It is wholly unrealistic, indeed counterproductive, to harp upon the pie-in-the-sky proposal like the no-war pact, and mutual inspection of nuclear facilities while dragging feet on simpler though far-reaching measures like easy travel, exchange of films and culture programs and even newspapers.

Pakistan had the golden opportunity of proving its sincerity once and for all by a similar imaginative stroke, that is, by returning to us the culprits of the last hijacking in July. During the last fortnight Pakistani press has thrown up some new indicators which worsened the climate. Newspaper NAWA-I-WAQT of Pakistan, quoting sources close to the White House in its issue of 5 October, has reported that President Reagan in a personal letter to President Zia has offered protection against nuclear attack on the same basis as a NATO country provided Pakistan abandons its nuclear program. While this may seem innocuous on the face of it, it can have some sinister implications for our national security from some angles which would take considerable analysis. For one thing, nuclear blackmail appears to be a distinct possibility. The paper has also reported that President Reagan has mooted cooperation with Pakistan beyond 1987 from the present 3.2 billion aid package program (?of loans). There are now reports that the extended package will include the funding for the Hawkeye aircraft and some additional naval craft, etc. This extension of military cooperation would have serious implication for us.

The recent reports of Pakistan's efforts to acquire Hawkeye are really not new. And I have already hinted at the military implications of such acquisition. What is more disturbing is the devious attempts in Pakistan as well as in the United States to justify their supply not on the grounds of some low intensity Afghan air raids on Pakistan but more sinisterly of building up a hysteria of an Indian attack on Pakistan. The recent U.S. satellite monitoring report regarding nondetection of Jaguar aircraft on an Indian base and attributing the phenomenon to a possible Indian attack on Pakistan's nuclear facility at Kahuta is a perfect case of deliberate disinformation, not an uncommon feature of foreign policy today. The fact that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan seized the welcome opportunity to react vociferously by threatening retaliation needs no comment.

Finally, a few words need to be said about the naval dimension of our environment, that is the Indian Ocean, which has also deteriorated. (?Suffice it) to say that the presence of large naval forces of extraregional powers in the ocean tends to convey wrong messages to Pakistan and some other nations relying on external support. This has the potential of misleading them into adventures they would not ordinarily contemplate on their own.

To sum up, I would say that our strategic environment has continued to deteriorate since 1979. It would need great sagacity, skill, and courage on our part to keep it under manageable limits.

CSO: 4600/1092

EAST GERMAN PAPER INTERVIEW WITH INDIRA GANDHI

AU310820 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 29 Oct 84 p 1

[Interview given by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi to correspondents of NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, ADN, and the GDR Television Service--date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: Madame Prime Minister, you are a signatory of the well-known joint disarmament appeal by six state and government chiefs. Which steps, in your opinion, are the most urgent so as to reduce the risk of a nuclear conflict?

Answer: We have expressed our ideas in this respect in our appeal. Point one is the freeze of the production, development and deployment of nuclear weapons. And naturally, that goes without saying, the ban on their use. Then we hope to achieve a gradual reduction of their production. The use of nuclear and of any kind of such weapons should be declared a crime against mankind.

We have sent this appeal to many governments and to all peoples. But unfortunately the nuclear powers--except the Soviet Union--have not given very positive replies. But the peoples and organizations of the other countries have expressed their support for the appeal, as, for example, have 100 members of the U.S. Congress and many public figures in the United States. What is necessary is to mobilize public opinion in such a way that it can influence government positions.

Question: With your permission, Madame Prime Minister, an additional question on this topic: Recently representatives of the six countries met on the periphery of the UN General Assembly in New York, to discuss follow-up steps. Can you give us any details about this?

Answer: Yes, that was a good meeting. But all this, as I have already said, is a complicated matter, because there are persistent attitudes. We must convince other governments, and make this cause a movement of the peoples. Many more such meetings may be necessary to draw attention to this serious question, because it does not concern only governments, or certain countries.

It affects even states which do not seem directly concerned at all. Thus, there has been talk about a nuclear winter and, if such an atom bomb were to explode, clouds and smoke would hit far-away regions. I have been told that in parts of

northwest India temperatures would almost immediately drop to 40 degrees centigrade below zero. You can imagine what effects that would have both on people and on life in general.

Apart from that, there is a concept about which we must enlighten people, a concept of a limited or winnable nuclear war. Important scientists tell us that this is precisely something which is impossible and will not happen. That kind of talk is designed to lull people into an attitude of self-complacency so that they think they might get away with it. The fact that others would die would be none of their business. But of course no one could escape. That would perhaps be a matter of minutes.

Question: In March 1983 India took over chairmanship of the nonaligned movement. How do you, as chairman, assess the endeavors of this movement to implement the decision it adopted at its seventh summit conference in Delhi?

Answer: Even before India took over chairmanship of the nonaligned movement, it was firmly included in all these problems. We were active for the cause of peace and disarmament as well as regarding other important problems. They include the inequality, the growing inequality, between the rich industrialized nations and the poor developing countries. To us, as chairman of the movement, this merely means to work even harder. We must remain in constant contact with others because we believe in cooperation with them in the spirit of partnership. And then there are the specific questions, as you know: the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian question, freedom for Namibia, apartheid in South Africa and so forth. All this has of course kept us pretty busy.

Some of the problems have been pending for a long time, the Iran-Iraq war of course not for quite so long. But we are in contact with others and provide support. For example, in Africa to those who are struggling for freedom. In Palestine we support the Arab cause of the Palestinian people regarding their own home country.

In the economic field we jointly decided--and India has taken the lead in that respect--to broach the question of the economic reform that is necessary in today's world. We feel that the economic crises which affect nearly every country are all linked with one another. We feel that the international financial institutions that were set up at a time when many of these countries were not yet free have done a good job and have helped us. However, they were not constructed to meet the growing challenges of the present.

That is why we want a conference on these problems, with global participation. The question was discussed in Cancun and other forums. However, there was strong resistance on the part of the industrialized countries. They argued that we would block progress by a repetition of this concept. That is why, without giving up our aims, we consented to a gradual approach permitting some small steps to be taken. But any such step must be a step in the right direction, a step to eliminate inequality and disproportion.

Surely you know that at our nonaligned summit meeting here we decided to hold a meeting in New York at the time of the UN General Assembly. I informed all states about it. Some 28 countries showed up at the conference table. Others did

not actually attend but were in New York so that we had the opportunity to discuss these questions. At the conference, representatives of all opinions were present, Warsaw Pact members, NATO members and--within NATO--some very liberal ones, and of course the nonaligned countries.

They came from all continents. It was a very open and frank discussion. No speeches, no declarations of positions, for we were of the view that the positions are well known. We were to try to discuss steps that could bring us closer to solutions. All agreed that it was a very useful meeting and that such discussions ought to be continued. It is, however, very difficult to find out how to continue. If all countries were to come, the framework for a meeting on a very friendly basis would be too big and the meeting too formal. Moreover, there are, as I already said at the beginning, certain countries that do not want this kind of dialogue at all.

Question: The GDR attaches great importance to your government's policy of preserving peace in the region of the Indian Ocean. What is necessary in your view for transforming the Indian Ocean into a peace zone?

Answer: Yes, the Indian Ocean area is full of nuclear arms bases, particular Diego Garcia. Fleets of many nations are cruising there. Far from being a zone of peace, as it once was, the Indian Ocean is now an area of increasing tensions and threats to all neighboring countries.

Many years ago, a resolution was adopted to keep the Indian Ocean free of all that, a resolution that was approved by all neighboring states. It was disregarded. The only thing we can do now is to further propagate this idea to try to convince peoples.

Question: You have repeatedly stressed the connection between peace and development. What are the main tasks in the present domestic policy according to your government?

Answer: You know, in a country of the size and manifoldness of India, with so many ethnic groups, all religions of the world, diverse languages with their own characters, castes and a diverse economic development level which has historic and other reasons, there are always tensions. We have always had these tensions here and there. But we have the energy to overcome them. Now a new aspect has been added. First, if such tension exists, it is used as a pretext for foreign interference. Second, we note an increase in fundamentalism that is foreign to the Indian tradition.

Tolerance has always been an Indian tradition, and India has always opened its doors wide to dissenters and representatives of other religions and so on. But now there is provocation and encouragement from outside, even from people who are not Indian citizens. We think that this is a danger to our unity and integrity.

Question: There is an anti-Indian campaign that over the last months was intensified by certain foreign circles. What, in your view, are the background and motives behind this campaign?

Answer: Yes, this is an old campaign that existed even at the time of Mahatma Gandhi and my father. But you are right when you say that in recent times it has been enormously aggravated. And as our elections are coming closer I have no doubt that this campaign will be further fanned with all kinds of slander, lies and exaggerated observations concerning developments here. That will be published very prominently outside our country and even in our country itself. All we can do is to try to do what we consider right and to continue our programs that serve the well-being of the country.

We are intensively occupied in making our independence real. That means not only having simply political independence, but also economic independence as far as possible.

Because there is a growing mutual dependence in the world, we cannot isolate ourselves from other countries. We think that this mutual dependence must rest on the basis of the independence of various nations and we are trying to strengthen our independence. Here, greater uniformity must be achieved in the country in two respects: first, concerning the various groups and religions; second, concerning the reduction of inequality that is of economic origin. This means reducing poverty and economic backwardness and finally eliminating it.

In the Seventh 5-Year Plan we will concentrate on foodstuffs, work, and productivity. But in the sixth plan we have already created more jobs and helped a bigger number of people to overcome the poverty threshold—over 100 million. This is a very big number, but in comparison with the overall population it is not significant.

Question: How do you assess the level and prospects of the relations between our two countries?

Answer: We have friendly relations and I recall with great pleasure the visits of your representatives here and my own visit to Berlin. We are cooperating in various fields at government and other levels. For example the GDR has helped us with the Nehru planetarium, set up by the foundation bearing the name of my father.

I am certain that, to our mutual benefit, this friendship will grow closer and closer.

CSO: 4600/1090

BRIEFS

NEW HINDU PARTY--Ambala, Oct. 7.--The northern zone Hindu Surksha Samity president, Mr Pawan Kumar Sharma, today announced the formation of a new political party named the Hindu Karanti Dal for protecting the interests of Hindus in the Country, reports UNI. Talking to reporters after a party convention here, Mr Sharma said all political parties in the country had failed to safeguard the interests of Hindus in Parliament and outside. He said the new party would contest the coming Lok Sabha elections in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Chandigarh Union Territory. The Constitution, flag and manifesto of the new party would be announced next week, he said. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Oct 84 p 7]

SIKKIM PARTY MERGER--Gangtok, Oct. 15.--The Sikkim Congress Revolutionary Party, led by Mr R. C. Poudyal, has merged in the Congress (I). This, says PTI, was announced by Mr Poudyal at a public meeting here yesterday, attended by the joint secretary of the AICC(I), Mr Panicker. The decision to join the Congress (I) follows assurance from the Centre that it would take a favourable view of the Congress(R)'s demand for repeal of Bill number 79 and reservation of seats for the Nepali community, recognition of Nepali language and citizenship for Stateless people, Mr Poudyal said. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 84 p 9]

SIMULTANEOUS POLLING OUT--New Delhi, Oct. 8 (PTI, UNI): The question of holding simultaneous elections to nine state Assemblies, whose terms expire in June, with the Lok Sabha elections in December or January is ruled out, Mr K. Ganesan, secretary to the Election Commission, said here today. The nine Assemblies are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. According to Mr Ganesan, fresh elections to Assemblies in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa will be held along with the Lok Sabha poll. Fresh elections in Sikkim and Pondicherry will be held only after President's rule is lifted. A decision is yet to be taken on holding a one-day poll. The entire process of the Lok Sabha elections will have to be completed before the first week of January. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 9 Oct 84 p 1]

RASHTRIYA JANATA-LOK DAL MERGER--Varanasi, Oct. 7 (PTI): The former Union health minister, Mr Raj Narain, today said the working committee of the Lok Dal had admitted all the members of his party, Rashtriya Janata. Talking to newsmen here, Mr Raj Narain appealed to the Janata Party to merge with the Lok Dal. Asked about changing the name of the Lok Dal in view of the proposed merger of Opposition parties, he said the present name would continue. He also opposed the proposal of a dual presidency. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 8 Oct 84 p 1]

GDR ENVOY--President Zail Singh said in Delhi on Monday that relation between India and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) served as an excellent example of peaceful co-existence, dialogue and constructive cooperation, reports PTI. It is particularly relevant in today's world, facing major challenges arising out of escalating arms race and imperative need for instituting an equitable world economic order, he added while welcoming the new ambassador of GDR, Dr Bernd Bider Mann, who presented his credentials to the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mr Zail Singh said "we appreciate the high assessment and understanding which the GDR has shown of our policy of non-alignment as well as good neighbourly relations in our region", the President said. Presenting his credentials, Dr Bernd Bider Mann referred to the threat of "nuclear inferno" facing the world and said "we are devoting all our efforts to the preservation of peace, political dialogue at the highest level to give a fresh impetus to the process of improving the international situation". He said India's efforts for peace, its contribution to the struggle for international security, development and equitable international economic relations and its initiative and activities reflecting high responsibility in the presidency of the non-aligned movement were greatly appreciated in GDR. "GDR will continue to support and strengthen steps undertaken by the Government of India for the cause of peace, nuclear disarmament, peaceful settlement of conflict and creation of good neighbourly relations in Asia", he said. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Oct 84 p 5]

BJP-RSS TIES--Bombay, Oct 9--Mr Lal Krishna Advani, general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, denied in Bombay today that the RSS has snapped relations with the BJP. Mr Advani was referring to reports in a section of the press that the RSS would not stand by the BJP and would switch its alliance to the Congress-I. Mr Advani said he had read the speech of Mr Balasaheb Deoras and found that a section of the press had distorted his statements. Addressing a press conference here Mr Advani regretted the Government's decision to reject the Election Commission's recommendation for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the state Assemblies. He said the Congress-I Government was unwilling to hold simultaneous elections because it was afraid that the intense faction fighting going on in the states would destroy its chances even in the Lok Sabha poll. Meanwhile Mr Viren Shah of the Baroda dynamite conspiracy fame announced that he has resigned from the Janata Party and has joined the BJP. Mr Shah was present at Mr Advani's press conference. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Oct 84 p 8]

ALGERIAN ENVOY--New Ambassador of Algeria Abderrahmane Bensid presented his credentials to President Zail Singh at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday morning, reports PTI. Welcoming the new ambassador, the President referred to the "deep and unbreakable" ties of friendship between India and Algeria and said the two countries had been following common set of ideals and principles. Noting with satisfaction the present level of excellent all-round relations between the two countries, the President said much remained to be done. India would like to see its close political links with Algeria to be matched by equally firm ties in the economic field and become an outstanding example of south-south cooperation, he said. Earlier, while presenting his credentials, Mr Bensid said the main thrust of his mission would be to further develop the already existing close ties between Algeria and India. This would help establish substantial and lasting economic cooperation as an integral part of the overall efforts of non-aligned countries to strengthen

south-south economic cooperation and to usher in a new world economic order based on equality and justice, he added. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Oct 84 p 5]

PROTEST TO PAKISTAN--New Delhi, Oct. 5. India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over the adoption of a recommendation at a recent seminar in Islamabad which called for the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the settlement of the dispute according to the relevant U. N. resolutions. "Such a recommendation vitiates the climate for promoting good relations between the two countries," India has told Islamabad. India's protest was conveyed to the Pakistan Foreign Office by the Indian embassy in Islamabad, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here today. The seminar organised by the "Motamar Al Alam Al Islami" on the theme "Islamic solidarity is essential for world peace", approved a set of recommendations one of which said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination in accordance with the declaration of the U. N. on the subject. The spokesman said that the details of the recommendations were now available with the Government of India. The Government has also taken serious note of the speeches of some of the Indian participants at the seminar, particularly Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman Sait, a member of the Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Union Muslim League.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Oct 84 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1068

NVOI VIEWS OCTOBER REVOLUTION'S IMPACT ON IRAN-USSR RELATIONS

TA092042 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 9 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary: "The Great October Socialist Revolution and Iran"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The Great October Socialist Revolution--whose 67th anniversary is being commemorated by progressive mankind as one of the world's great festivals--has had a lofty impact on the history of our homeland as well, and our homeland's grateful people, who are indebted to the victory of the October Revolution for their independence and are honoring this auspicious day.

The importance of the October Revolution for Iran stems from the fact that as a result of this revolution, one of the most treacherous foes of Iran's freedom and independence, namely Czarism, was overthrown, and a friendly government and a compassionate benevolent neighbor--the socialist government of workers and peasants--was established on its ruins.

We said that as a result of the October Revolution Iran regained its independence, that is to say, the Soviet Government abrogated the treaty between British colonialism and the Russian Czar that divided our homeland, Iran, into the spheres of influence of Britain and Czarist Russia--a treaty that had encroached upon the independence of Iran. Thus, the necessary conditions for Iran's independent progress were created.

The Soviet Socialist Government also abrogated all Czarist Russia's economic and political concessions, and gave up all the capital and concessions of Czarist Russia in Iran to the Iranian people.

The Soviet Socialist Government--our neighbor--has always assisted our homeland's people to defend their independence and territorial integrity. This is acknowledged by both friend and foe. It is only the enemies of Iran's freedom and independence who have tried and are trying to distort this fact and to mislead our homeland's public opinion toward the USSR.

In this period of the climax of the Iranian people's popular, antidespotic and anti-imperialist revolution, we again witnessed the unstinting support and backing of our northern neighbor for the Iranian people's revolutionary struggles. Everyone say how the Soviet Union--by expressing solidarity with

the Iranian revolution--kept it immune from the imperialist aggressions headed by the wild U.S. imperialists. The Iranian people are well aware that the Soviet Government's serious warning to imperialism, particularly to aggressive U.S. imperialism, which fought tooth and nail to defend the shah's hated regime, was a valuable and destiny-making support for the Iranian revolution. It was the Soviet Government that explicitly declared that the destiny of the Iranian revolution was the concern of the Iranian people alone, and that no one except the Iranian people had the right to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. This revolutionary and just stance of the Soviet Union, which (?neutralized) the evil plans of the imperialists to crush the Iranian revolution, and which kept Iran immune from the interference and aggression of the imperialists, is appreciated by our homeland's grateful people.

Moreover, in the most difficult post-revolution period, when through an economic boycott the imperialists tried to deal a blow to the Iranian people, it was again the USSR that rushed to help our homeland's people. Once again, like a kind neighbor and a true and sincere friend, it stood at the side of our homeland's people. If we were to list the unstinting assistance of the Soviet Union to the consolidation of Iran's independence, as well as to the Iranian people, this would consume a great deal of time and would be beyond the scope of this talk.

Our homeland's people are aware of all these developments and consider their next-door neighbor, the Soviet Union, as their true friend and backer. However, it should be stated with deep regret that those who have currently seized power and who are associated with the imperialists, have in accordance with their fascist nature adopted a course that at one time was traversed by their predecessors in the previous regime. In raising hollow claims, these gentlemen are exerting every effort to distort the Soviet Government's policy in the eyes of our homeland's grateful people. By proclaiming the self-made slogan of "Neither East nor West," they are striving to place Iran once more under the domination of the imperialists. They have transformed anti-Sovietism and an anticommunism into their official policy. It should be stated, however, that the Iranian people no longer believe the lies of these gentlemen and recognize well their friends and foes.

Our homeland's people congratulate the people of their friendly and neighboring country, the Soviet Union, on the 67th anniversary of the victory of the Great October Revolution, and wish them further successes in defense of the cause of peace, in the liberation of the world's subjugated nations, and in all domestic affairs.

CSO: 4640/113

IRAN

TEHRAN WARNS KUWAIT AGAINST ISLAND AGREEMENT

GF161711 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, after his return from Baghdad last Tuesday, Kuwaiti heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah stated that the interior ministers in both Kuwait and Iraq will meet in the near future with the aim of studying the pending border issues. This was reported by AFP. It is well known that these problems are over 20 years old. The Kuwaiti papers reported that Iraq and Kuwait actually agreed to an agreement in principle to solve the border problems which involve 160 kms separating the two countries.

Kuwaiti heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah stated that a group of Kuwaiti experts will leave for Baghdad to study two joint projects. According to this statement, a well-informed Kuwaiti source noted that these projects include Kuwait's acquisition of fresh water from Shatt al-'Arabb--the main river in southern Iraq--for agricultural projects on the lands to the north of Kuwait, in addition to establishing major plants to jointly generate and distribute electricity so that the necessary electricity will be ensured from the city of Basra. This source reported that these two projects were discussed in the past but their implementation was repeatedly impeded due to the border issues existing between the two countries.

Dear brother listener, here we have to enquire whether these parts of the joint project are all that matters. Iraq refused to take part in any border talks with Kuwait. It even refused to provide Kuwait with fresh water from Shatt al-'Arabb even though it knows well the basic need of Iraq to potable and other water. Iraq rejects all that unless Kuwait approves of releasing the islands of Warbah and Bubiyan or even Faylakah in order to use them militarily in its war against Iran. This position proves the immense extent of the hostile policy that is followed by the rulers of Iraq--who coerce the Iraqi Muslim people--toward the neighboring countries. This also proves their own sly view toward these fraternal countries. He also added that the upcoming GCC meeting will be held in Kuwait on 27 November and that the GCC countries intend to launch a new draft plan to end the war between Iran and Iraq and that the continuation of

this war encourages the superpowers to interfere in the region. The Kuwaiti papers reported that the Kuwaiti heir apparent visited the supreme military operations room in Iraq following a meeting with Saddam and the conveying of a message to him from the amir of Kuwait. Other press sources also reported that the preliminary agreement that was hammered out between the two sides included Iraq's approval to halt its border differences with Kuwait until after the war in return for Kuwait's approval to provide facilities for Iraq by benefitting from the islands of Warbah, Bubiyan, and Faylakah, which are located in the northeastern part of Kuwait, that is, in the area opposite to the Iraqi devastated Fao port. This source added that Tarqi Hanna 'Aziz had discussed the issue of these islands during his visit to Kuwait some months ago.

The Islamic Republic of Iran regards the agreement pertaining to water and to electricity as a matter that concerns the two countries, Iraq and Kuwait. But it hopes that Kuwait or any other sides will not slip into the devastating ditch of this war in which Saddam is involved and which caused serious damage and losses. It is easy to get involved in the war by adopting an unwise decision. Yet getting out of the dilemma is an extremely difficult matter, if not impossible. The Iran of Islam has extended its hand in a fraternal manner to the Gulf countries and said repeatedly that it is ready to turn a blind eye to the previous hostile positions--which are represented in backing Saddam politically and financially by some Gulf countries--provided that these countries realize the extent of how wrong these positions are and abandon them. Saddam will ultimately be eliminated. Security and stability will be restored following his fall. Any unwise position--particularly providing military facilities to Iraq in its unjust war against Islamic Iran--is regarded as an extremely serious step and a huge, presumptuous step in wrongdoing or in aggression. If this very thing comes true then for every action there will be suitable talk.

CSO: 4604/16

IRANIAN PAPER PRAISES UAE LEADER'S STANCE

GF121300 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Shaykh Zayid's Move Welcomed"]

[Text] Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the neighboring group of countries across the Persian Gulf banded together as the United Arab Emirates, have on the whole been beneficent and cordial since the advent of the Islamic revolution and why not, since both nations are linked by the inalienable fraternal cord of Muslim brotherhood? It is our hope that this can extend to all other Muslim nations as well, who will veer around to seeing the point of view of the Islamic Republic of Iran for what it really is.

Well, what we really feel to be so is that a great deal of pressure must have been exerted on the UAE, as has been done with several other governments in an effort to drive a wedge between the Islamic Republic and these. Yet it speaks a great deal for President Shaykh Zayid bin Sultan that his astute wisdom and judgment has kept his government from bending to any such pressures.

It was this that has prompted him to tell President Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i in his message recently that he had the fullest confidence in the "abilities and judgment of his Iranian counterpart." And saying this certainly is something that the enemies of Islam and of the Islamic Republic would have good reason to feel the smart of.

Shaykh Zayid is considered to be a man of reason and a seasoned politician. As the ruler of this sensitive zone in the Middle East, he has on many an occasion made it quite clear that he follows an independent policy.

Once again he has demonstrated this when the Iranian call for support on the Iranian motion to be brought up in the United Nations to expel Israel from that organization, met with favorable response from the UAE and was the subject of the message we spoke of above.

The Skaykh very commendably informed President Khamene'i not only that his government fully supports the Iranian move but hoped that this would prompt a concerted move by all Muslim countries acting together.

While we are in agreement with the Shaykh, who agrees fully with the injustices of the Israeli occupations of Muslim lands, especially of Palestine and Holy Gods, which has a special place in the hearts of all Muslims, we would invite him to join us in redoubling our efforts to persuade all Muslim governments and nations to make a united and intelligent effort, using all the resources at our command and with faith to reclaim what is justly the birth-right of the Muslims of the world.

No doubt the United States is all primed to veto this move of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but no matter. If one blow of the axe does not fell a tree, it does not mean that the tree cannot be felled at all. With wisdom, ingenuity and above all with faith in the rightness and righteousness of our cause, there is no doubt that there are a great many ways in which this will, Inshaallah, one day be accomplished. It is with this faith that the Islamic Republic marches on.

If the other Muslim leaders, like Shaykh Zayid, join hands with the Islamic Republic then as the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni said, "The Zionist regime will not exist and the United States cannot do any damn thing."

The world Muslim leaders should note that the plots of the United States are deep and one is not surprised at all that Jordan has decided unilaterally on the renewal of diplomatic ties with Egypt where the flag of Israel still flaps.

We have to be vigilant and should not be trapped by the enemy. What is needed now is unity among the Muslims under the umbrella of genuine Islam. Then neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will be in a position to break into the impregnable bastion of Islam.

If we are united, the holy places will be ours, Palestinians will be in their own homeland, Afghanistan will be out of the clutches of the Soviets and also Egypt will be ruled by the Muslims, who will never dare to shake hands with the enemy of entire Muslim Ummah.

Can we expect other Muslim leaders to echo Shaykh Zayid and follow suit?

CSO: 4600/88

U.S. AID OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ASSISTANCE PLANS

Karachi DAWN in English Business Supplement 26 Oct 84 p II

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct 25: Dr Donor M. Lion, Director of USAID in Pakistan, has said that the economic assistance package of 1625m dollars which his country was planning to make available to Pakistan during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, provided a unique programme and entered into a multi-year American commitment with support of both the United States Executive and legislative branches.

Dr Lion said that despite its size and multi-year character, United States assistance could best be utilised for carrying out development work by Pakistan itself and added that it would be up to Pakistan to design right policies and implement programmes efficiently. "We and other friends can and will help", he stated.

He said that the Six-Year Economic Assistance Programme was slightly over one-half of a combined military-economic assistance package of 3.2 billion dollars and had been put together in Sept 1981 by a joint Pakistan-United States group after negotiations between the two governments.

Projects

Giving details of projects and programmes identified by the joint group, he said that 300 million dollars were programmed for agricultural commodities and equipment, half of which was meant for fertilisers of the kind not produced

in Pakistan in sufficient quantities. A sizable part would finance heavy machinery to maintain irrigation canals. Three hundred million dollars were programmed to finance import of vegetable oil for manufacturing ghee, so that Pakistan's imports of this essential commodity, consuming hundreds of millions of dollars annually in foreign exchange could be reduced.

He said that 60 million dollars were meant to finance state-of-the-art heat recovery gas turbine generators to increase electricity output at Guddu Power Plant. Centre piece of this project, he pointed out, was technology, which re-uses heat from gas turbine in second stage of generation, significantly raising efficiency with which Pakistan's natural gas was harnessed for power sector.

Dr Donor M. Lion said that an undefined total sum was planned for US aid share of Lakhra coal-fired electric generation project at Jamshoro in Sind. This project, he added, would be first large scale exploitation of Pakistan substantial lignite coal reserves for power generation and had potential to point way towards critical substitution of coal for expensive imported oil.

Rural uplift

USAID Director said that almost 100 million dollars would be provided for rural development programmes in Baluchistan and NWFP.

Of them, he added, 40 million dollars would be utilised for Baluchistan area development project, which had been initiated in Mekran Division. He said that 100 million dollars were programmed, to improve management, maintenance and operations of Pakistan's vast irrigation infrastructure and some 125 million dollars were allocated to population and health.

Dr Donor M. Lion said that in all 23 programmes and projects comprised United States multi-year economic assistance package to Pakistan and added that all these projects would benefit the Province of Baluchistan directly or indirectly. Development of roads, agriculture and irrigation in Mekran Division of Baluchistan through implementation of 40 million dollars programme would help improve socio-economic condition of the people in the area. He said that Baluchistan Government had already appointed an expert engineer (Retired) Colonel Mirza Anwarul Haq as Project Director of Programme, undertaken in Mekran Division.

Dr Donor M. Lion said that in addition to current economic assistance, his country was making substantial contribution in financial and technical aid which Pakistan was getting through various United Nations and other international agencies. One of the factors compelling United States to extend assistance to Pakistan was to share its burden of Afghan refugees.

MUSLIM SUPPORT FOR AFGHANS URGED

GF021436 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 16 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15--Former Foreign Minister, Mr Agha Shahi, today called upon the Muslim leadership of the world to strive with greater determination and solidarity to extricate the people of Afghanistan from alien domination.

Presenting his paper on "the role of Islam in contemporary international relations" at a seminar institute here this morning, Mr Shahi also urged the Muslim leaders to find an early end of the Gulf war.

He said Islamic states membership must pursue with courage and integrity the Islamic vision of a world free from aggression, persecution and oppression so that peace based on human equality, dignity and brotherhood may prevail.

In his speech before the seminar, Mr Shahi dwelt at length with the Islamic concept of international relations, the problems faced by the Islamic world, and ways and means to forge meaningful co-operation and solidarity among the Islamic states.

He said that the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan had precipitated a new threat to the security and stability of the Islamic heartland.

Regarding Iraq-Iran war, Mr Agha Shahi said that "it is a crippling blow to the Islamic solidarity." He said that the causes of the war were complex.

He said that the member states of the OIC have been able to adopt a united Islamic stand on the burning issues including Middle East, Palestine sovereignty over the holy city of Jerusalem, occupied Arab territories, sovereignty of Lebanon and the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

The former foreign minister said that since Iranian revolution, Western intellectuals and orientalist wrote a number of biased articles. He said: "Islam is a living religion with vast area of action." Islam guaranteed human rights 14 centuries ago, which were duly reflected in the U.N. Charter of Human Rights.

(10/10/73)

He said that Islam offers solution to all the problems faced by the mankind. He stressed the need for research on the role of Islam in the contemporary relations, regarding which the Islamic research institute decided to create a cell particularly dealing with the subject.

Dr S.M. Zaman, Prof M.A. Ghazi and Dr Tufail will work on the subject in addition to Agha Shahi.

CSO: 4600/73

INDIAN REPORTS OF BORDER CLASHES TERMED 'FICTITIOUS'

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 24: While it has all along been Pakistan's continuous and earnest endeavour to generate an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding with India with a view to ensuring tension-free and cooperative relations, it is unfortunate that the Indian media should be circulating totally fictitious and highly coloured reports to vitiate the atmosphere, said an official spokesman here today.

Refuting the allegation made by PTI, the official spokesman said that no trenches had been dug or were being dug by the Pakistani troops in the so-called no-man's land. He also categorically stated that no such clashes between the two sides have taken place on Oct 18 as alleged by PTI. Besides, he clearly denied the allegation that troops reinforcements were pouring in, saying that it was a "baseless" allegation.—PPI

Quoting PTI, Reuters reports from New Delhi on Oct 23 that "Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged heavy fire on their borders in Kashmir after Pakistani troops started digging trenches in no-man's land."

The report said that clashes started on Oct 18 in Poonch District and had since led to exchange of small arms fire along a 50-kilometer stretch of border bet-

ween the two countries, and in order to make this sound credible, PTI quoted the "sources" as saying that "Pakistani troops opened fire when the Indians objected to digging of trenches in no-man's land," the "sources" which, however, have not been identified, said "trench digging was continuing and Pakistan's reinforcements were seen pouring in at several points."

CSO: 4600/63

JOINT VENTURES WITH CHINA SUGGESTED

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 24: The Chinese Consul General, Mr. Wang Disan on Wednesday stressed the need for exploring the possibilities of undertaking projects on a joint venture basis between the two countries either in China or Pakistan.

In a meeting with Mr Tariq Sayeed, President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said that despite recent increases in the two-way trade, there was an ample scope for further expansion between the two countries.

Chinese economy, he said, has witnessed a shift from closed door policy to an open policy since 1978 which would help friendly countries like Pakistan.

The Chinese envoy said that the Government and the entrepreneurs have been separated and the Trading Corporation of China would now have to bear the losses instead of receiving subsidy from the Government. He hoped that the decentralisation of the economy

would also have salutary effect on the foreign trade.

Mr. Wang Disan said that after the rural reforms, emphasis was being shifted to urban reforms including industry, commerce, science and education.

Mr. Tariq Sayeed stressed that the volume of trade between the two countries should also be reflective of our special relations.

The Chamber President termed the economic growth of China as most remarkable and said that the country like Pakistan can be benefited in a big way from their experience and expertise in different fields of economy.

Mr. Tariq Sayeed stated that the Government has launched the 6th Five-Year Plan with a massive outlay and an industrial target of Rs. 62 billion has been earmarked for the private enterprise. The coming years would, therefore, witness growing economic activities and we would be looking for partners for assistance and joint ventures from countries like China." —APP.

CSO: 4600/63

TRADE WITH AUSTRIA PROFILED

Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 84 p 21

[Article by Dr Peter Jehly, trade commissioner for Austria in Pakistan]

[Text] The basis of Austria's trade with Pakistan is the Trade Agreement signed between the two countries in December 1956 and which is now renewed annually.

Austria as well as Pakistan are members of the GATT and have concluded a Double Taxation Agreement and an Agreement on Air Traffic rights. Austria also allows tariff concessions under the GSP Scheme on the import of a number of handicraft from Pakistan.

Below are some of the details regarding trade relations between Pakistan and Austria.

Austrian Imports from Pakistan: The main items that Austria imports from Pakistan are manufactured goods like carpets, garments, animal hides and casings, toys and sporting goods and recently also wireless equipment (radios).

As can be seen from the figures in the table published here the Austrian imports from Pakistan after a period of stagnation have now increased considerably from 112 (1982) to 146 million A.S. in 1983 marking the rate of increase by 30 per cent. This increase was due mainly to higher imports of carpets and garments. It is expected that this increase will continue and the final figures of 1984 will show even a more optimistic picture.

Austrian Exports to Pakistan: As can be seen from the table of statistics published here Austrian exports to Pakistan last year as well as in the first eight months of this year have again shown remarkable increases. Pakistan's main imports from Austria are different kinds of machinery, metal products, paper, chemicals, instruments, glassware etc.

Austrian firms enjoy world-wide reputation in the manufacture of paper, in the field of hydro-power plant construction, in the production of different kinds of machineries and also in the metal industry. Here we would specially like to mention about the LD Oxygen converter process which is used today for the production of more than half of the world crude steel capacity.

PAKISTAN – AUSTRIA TRADE FIGURES in 1,000 Au. Sh.
(1 Au. Sh. Average 1979/82 = Rs. 0.70)

	1981	1982	1983	1983/8	1984/8
Austrian Exports to Pakistan					
Food stuff (Cattle milk powder)	3.881	2.534	670	220	450
Raw material (fibers secondhand cloth)	9.718	3.030	8.758	4.227	3.855
Chemicals such as:					
Med. & Pharmaceutical products	7.573	5.058	1.937	1.431	2.447
Plastics	2.614	2.765	6.528	2.521	2.351
Manufactured goods such as:					
Construction material	13.924	11.073	17.130	11.139	16.231
Paper & Board	30.396	34.409	29.720	21.145	32.294
Paper articles	12.994	10.689	11.071	15.031	20.785
Glass articles	3.415	3.492	2.874	1.399	2.405
Steel bars	1.491	1.981	2.502	1.842	2.402
Wire products	99	907	28.298	28.298	403
Tools	3.068	4.408	1.991	1.495	5.499
Machines such as:					
Textile machinery	24.409	1.027	6.975	4.226	5.291
Machine tools	754	13.149	396	436	2.946
Printing machinery	4.516	16.153	12.680	12.556	14.747
Pumps	572	792	1.786	1.612	4.520
Construction Mach.	1.257	13.161	34	14	7.874
Electric machinery	3.796	7.416	6.361	2.930	15.656
cars such as:					
Fire extinguishers	2.600	21.309	8.249	—	2.192
Other manufactured goods such as:					
Special garments	600	360	—	—	—
Sporting goods	185	4.472	2.781	2.160	4.174
Instruments	2.351	2.694	3.662	2.685	717
Total:	190.966	214.383	226.865	156.221	161.791
Austrian imports from Pakistan					
Food Stuffs (esp. fodder)	675	1.183	2.440	2.247	1.129
Raw materials (esp. animal origin)	20.490	14.875	13.947	7.912	8.440
Chemical products	43	22	24	7	26
Manufactured goods (esp. carpets)	64.201	62.019	86.623	50.371	57.240
Machines (radios)	44	3.441	3.743	2.766	216
Other manufactured goods such as:					
Garments	19.773	22.014	29.080	16.954	27.851
Shoes	1.292	590	955	547	514
Toys, sporting Goods	6.450	6.372	8.574	6.832	5.626
Total:	114.843	111.981	149.469	88.345	98.798

ZIA SUPPORTED ON FOREIGN POLICY

GFO71112 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Principled Stand"]

[Text] Speaking at a reception held on the U.N. Day, President Ziaul Haq not only denneated the role of U.N. in the troubled world of today, but also summed up Pakistan's perceptions of international morality. While on the negative side one could cite U.N.'s inability to resolve conflicts such as those of Iran and Iraq or of the Arab World and Israel or even its failure to curb the inhuman excesses of South Africa; there are vast areas of socio-economic development, in which U.N.'s role has been most credit worthy. Even in its failures its collective responsibility was mitigated by the reluctance of its individual members to invest it with the requisite authority. In the words of the President: "The U.N. can only be as strong as the member nations want it to be." None adherence to principles of international morality had given rise to "big nations interference in the affairs of smaller nations, colonisation, racism, apartheid," and the U.N., which was supposed to be an upholder of these principles, had to stand helplessly by.

So far as Pakistan was concerned, said the president, it stood by the United Nations principles of nonuse of force, non-interference in others affairs, peaceful resolution of conflicts and respect for the sovereignty of other nations." And this commitment was born not only from Pakistan's firm belief in the U.N. Charter but also from its fidelity to Islam--which is a religion of peace. It was because of this commitment that Pakistan despite negative and discouraging responses from some of its neighbours, continued to cultivate peace. Three million people have fled Afghanistan before the invading forces of a big power and sought refuge within Pakistan. This has placed an economic burden of no small order on our limited physical and financial resources and yet Pakistan has constantly appealed for a political solution. There have been provocation from the north west and "there were reports of concentration of forces" on our eastern borders. But Pakistan had not abandoned its policy of peace. It has offered a "No War Pact" to India, and it has diligently worked towards strengthening regional cooperation with its South Asian neighbours. In short, it is doing its bit in trying to make "the world a place worth living for the sake of posterity, to create a balance, to do away with vices, injustices and ruthlessness." Pakistan can only hope that others too do their bit.

WORLD SITUATION SAID 'DANGEROUS'

GF021430 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 26 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Dangerous World Situation"]

[Text] While speaking at the reception he held for West German Chancellor Mr Helmut Kohl, President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq justifiably said that the world and regional situation was very dangerous. He said that Afghanistan had been a victim of foreign occupation for the last 5 years and that murders, tyranny, and barbarity were order of the day in that country. The Iran-Iraq war has caused anxiety in the whole region. Talks between the superpowers are getting nowhere; the nuclear arms race continues and the international economic crisis has worsened owing to global trade recession and the heavy load of loans on the developing countries. President Ziaul Haq said that these events and problems have become a cause of instability in the world. He said it was necessary for an effective plan to be devised to resolve the world wranglings in a peaceful way and a new world economic system should be set up.

No doubt the present global and regional situation is extremely dangerous and this has been caused by the expansionist schemes of the superpowers. Both superpowers are determined to gain superiority over the other and they think that everything they do to strengthen and expand their influence is just and fair. The atmosphere of peaceful coexistence has become hazy between them and the program of talks between them has also become inactive. Confrontation and tension exists not only in the political field, there is great unrest in the economic field as well and this has been caused by the unjust global economic system. The irony is that all world organizations of the United Nations have proved useless in bringing about any positive change in the situation.

UN Secretary General Mr Cuellar issued a warning last year that if the problems of Afghanistan, the Middle East, Lebanon, Chad, Namibia, and Kampuchea were not resolved through peaceful diplomatic channels, this would be a dangerous blow to world peace. He painfully admitted that we were passing through a phase in which criticism was even levied upon the importance and usefulness of the diplomatic efforts on social levels. He also said that international organizations were not working as they should and that no headway was being made by the unilateral efforts to resolve present

day issues. It was therefore necessary to reactivate the United Nations and make it more effective. Otherwise we will be encircled by such a world storm that we will not be able to escape its destructive form.

Although Mr Cuellar's warning is a true expression of the present day world situation, no change for the better has occurred so far. No doubt a majority of the world's nations want a peaceful solution of economic and political problems and agree that the United Nations must be made more effective. However, it is regretful that the intransigent attitude adopted by the super-powers has made this organization ineffective. Differences between the Soviet Union and the United States have grown so much that disarmament talks have proved of no avail. These two countries blame each other but they do not show readiness to correct their own attitude.

This analysis shows that no hope can be attached to the current session of the General Assembly and there is no hope for any progress in the solution of the Middle East or the Afghanistan problems. The North and South talks, however, may show some improvement under the pressure of the nonaligned countries. This would serve to lessen the economic difficulties of the developing countries. However, it is an admitted fact that if the UN machinery is not put to action correctly, the whole world will suffer. Mr Cuellar has said that while the UN machinery is not inactive, its wheels seem to be moving but the cart does not move. It is therefore essential that all nations of the world devise a plan to get this cart moving forward.

CSO: 4656/24

RELATIONS WITH INDIA, BORDER SITUATION VIEWED

GF031434 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 28 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "War Clouds and Peace Efforts"]

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a lengthy 2 and 1/2 hour speech, while giving details of the worrying situation on Pakistan's western and eastern borders, said that war clouds are far from Pakistan's borders and the regime was trying to push them even further away to lessen the danger of a war. The president particularly referred to the unreasonable demands of the Indian rulers with respect to maintaining peace and good will in the region. He also referred to the efforts made by the Pakistani Government during the last 6 years with regard to normalizing relations between the two countries. Pakistan is a small country, while India is a big country if we take into account its area, population, resources, and armament. In short, India is a big country in every respect. There is no comparison between the two.

Pakistan sincerely wishes this region to remain in peace and security and wants its independence and territorial integrity be respected. Pakistan has often extended the hand of friendship to India. The present government has even offered to sign a nonaggression pact with India. But the Indian rulers have not been able to dispel doubts and uncertainties from the minds of Pakistanis. The Pakistani people are not only victims of uncertainty, fear, and doubts, but baseless and mischevious propaganda is also being carried out against them. Indian rulers have stopped Sikh pilgrims from visiting Pakistan. The programs which are being screened on Indian television and the demands which are being made in respect of the extradition of the Sikh highjackers clearly show India's desire to clamp its hegemony over the region. No free and sovereign regime in the world would be prepared to give in to such demands. If the Indian rulers sincerely accept the existence of Islamic Pakistan in the subcontinent, and if they try to understand that the Pakistani people are a proud and self-possessed people and that they will not let anybody endanger a danger to their independence and sovereignty, only then can there be an atmosphere of peace and friendliness in the region. Such an atmosphere is essential for the progress and well-being of all countries. Pakistan's basic demand is that Indian rulers stop baseless accusations against Pakistan and adopt a path for resolving their difference through peaceful talks.

As far as the western borders are concerned, the Karmal regime bombed the Chitral region of Pakistan exactly as the president was delivering a message of peace and friendship in his address to the members of the Punjab council. This bombardment was a serious violation of Pakistan's borders and a strong provocation. Pakistan protested strongly to the Afghan consul in Pakistan and also brought the matter to the attention of the secretary general of the United Nations. Pakistan wants this question be resolved peacefully. The next indirect talks on this question are due in February. Let us hope that a final program for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan come to light in those talks. If this is done then the tension on our western borders will not result in any serious danger.

CSO: 4656/24

COMMENTARY ON EFFORTS FOR PRESS FREEDOM

GF041032 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Resolute Efforts for Press Freedom"]

[Text] A joint convention of the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) and Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) which met in Islamabad on Monday has taken a serious view of the steady erosion of press freedom. The national press finds it difficult to perform its normal functions with the Damocles sword of restrictive laws and regulations (with their punitive provisions) hanging over its head. The situation has been further compounded by the periodic 'press advice' issued with its imperative 'do's and don'ts'. While the newsmen are forced to settle for press notes issued every now and again by officials entrusted with the sensitive duty of 'news management', which is often grossly mismanaged, the nation is served with doctored versions of the happenings at home. This was clearly indicated when the traumatic events in Karachi on the 10th of Muharram-ul-Haram were 'dressed up' to make them appear inconsequential. Such a practice forces people to turn to foreign sources of information and give credence to rumours.

The convention, which deliberated over the comprehensive agenda relating to the APNS/CPNE demands for three long hours, also heard a detailed report of the negotiations held with the government on the crucial issues involved. And in the general discussion that followed, the members present expressed themselves forcefully on the various subjects placed on the agenda, and adopted a number of declarations. While expressing its satisfaction with some measure of progress in respect of negotiations with the Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from February 20 this year onwards, the convention reiterated its strong and determined opposition to the press and publications ordinance, amendments in libel and other laws, and practices that restricted the freedom of the press. A strong plea was made for the lifting of the present ban on political reporting to enable the press to play its rightful role to enlighten the people and promote the democratic process.

On the following day (Tuesday), the Karachi and Lahore sub-committees on the proposed federal press council were directed to finalise their report by the end of the current month so that the CPNE could send its final reply to the Ministry of Information. In its meeting on Tuesday, another resolution

was adopted by the convention calling upon the government to adopt corrective measures aimed at reducing the credibility gap and helping newspapers inform their readers about developments within and outside the country. The authorities should realise that it is the only way in which their own credibility, that has ebbed a great deal, can be restored and their image refurbished.

The two supreme bodies of the national press have also decided to challenge the validity of the press and publications ordinance and other similar legislation which constrict the freedom of the press and render it incapable of performing its normal functions. We would very much like to hope that matters can be sorted out without resort to litigation. With the general election now in the offing, the government itself should take the initiative to remove all harsh and crippling curbs on the press. A shackled press and free elections, which the president has promised, cannot go together.

CSO: 4600/73

BORDER VIOLATIONS SAID NO ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE ELECTIONS

GF041403 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 23 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Border Violations"]

[Excerpts] The governor of the frontier province, Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, referred to the border violations while addressing a mammoth crowd at Jalala. He said that these border violations were aimed at sabotaging the forthcoming elections. The Pakistani people will leave no stone unturned in the defense of their country's security and integrity. Although Pakistan is displaying immense tolerance, it seems that these tactics are meant to sabotage the elections.

We agreed with the frontier province governor's assertion that if the people are not united and have a common bond, the concept of security will not materialize, but we do not agree with his opinion that the violations on the eastern and western borders are merely an attempt to sabotage the upcoming elections. As a matter of fact, this has been going on for a long time and they have only gained momentum today. According to our analysis, these operations are continuing because the perpetrators know that there is no strong elected government in Pakistan. Even if martial law initiates measures which result in economic improvement or obtains foreign loans, it is a fact that it is no substitute for an elected people's government. It does not enjoy the support of the political elements and cannot perform its chief duty of the defense of the borders because it is distracted by internal issues and problems. It can only fulfill its responsibility of protecting the borders when there is an elected political government inside the country, political and democratic institutions exist, the people are not apprehensive and perturbed, and the army enjoys the full support of all these elements.

CSO: 4656/23

INTEREST IN ELECTIONS SAID AROUSED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct. 27: The Government decision to amend the six relevant election laws has aroused the interest of desirous candidates in the ensuing contest, boosting the psychological atmosphere for the poll.

Although the picture will crystallise only after the amendments have been made public. Legal experts anticipate a number of changes in the existig laws in the light of various statements made by President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

For instance, if the poll is to be held on a non-party basis, Article 17 of the Constitution which provides for freedom to form and to be a member of a political party will have to be amended.

Similarly, Section 12 of Representation of People's Act 1976, under which a candidate is required to disclose his affiliation to a political party, will cease to be operative and will have to be changed or deleted.

Moreover, Section 21 of the same law which related to allocation of symbols to contesting parties will come up for amendment. In this connction, the provisions of local government laws 1979 which prevent a candidate from constesting on a political basis might be adopted in toto for the purpose of

national election.

If the electoral plan provides for proportional representation, the National and Provincial Assemblies (Basis of Election) Ordinance 1979, will be made applicable, as was the case with the November 1979 election which was postponed on Oct. 16 that year.

As far as the delimitation of constituencies is concerned, the Government is not likely to reopen the whole question because that might open the Pandora's box requiring months to finalise the tedious work.

There is every likelihood that the amendment would provide a time limit within which all the objections in regard to delimitation of constituencies, particularly those which involve newly-created districts, will have to be disposed of with further provision that any objection which is not heard and decided within the time limit will be deemed to have abated.

One of the most important amendments would relate to the proposed qualifications for the candidates to which the President has been making repeated reference. This would involve a change in the text of oath which a candidate is required to take under the law.

CSO: 4600/70

ELECTIONS ON PARTY BASIS SAID LIKELY

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Nisar Osmani]

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct 28: The forthcoming elections, scheduled to be held by March next, will most likely be conducted on party basis under the registration of parties scheme, and on the basis of separate electorates.

A broad indication to this effect has been made by the President in his recent amendments to Election Laws relating to conduct of elections and delimitation of constituencies.

For instance, the National and Provincial Assemblies (Basis of Elections) Order, 1979, providing for the basis of proportional representation which was promulgated on Sept. 13, 1979 — barely a month before the elections were postponed — has been amended in a manner that Clause Two of Section (1) has been omitted. The deleted c read: "It shall apply only in respect of the forthcoming elections to the National and provincial assemblies." In simpler words, the system of proportional representation has been adopted on a permanent basis.

Another amendment, which relates to the electoral system, substitutes Clause 1 of Article Nine of the Houses of Parliament and Provin-

cial Assemblies (election) Order, 1977, clearly provides the principle for separate electorates. The amended law now reads: "At an election to a Muslim seat or non-Muslim seat in the National Assembly or the provincial assemblies, only such persons shall be entitled to vote in a constituency as are enrolled on the electoral rolls prepared in accordance with the law on the principle of separate electorates."

In the Representation of People Act, 1976, Sections Three and Four of Section 21 have been omitted, implying thereby that no appeal will be entertained by the Election Commission against an order of the returning officer in granting an election symbol to a candidate or refusing grant of a symbol preferred by him.

Similarly, Sub-section Two of Section Eleven of the same law has also been amended in a manner that the time for filing nomination papers has been done probably to shorten the election schedule.

In Sub-Section One of Section 23, a provision has been added under which the choice to appoint a polling agent has been restricted to a registered voter of that electoral area.

CSO: 4600/72

POSSIBLE ELECTION SABOTAGE CONDEMNED

GF061343 Lahore JANG in Urdu 30 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Conspiracy to Sabotage Elections"]

[Text] The governor of the northwest frontier province (NWFP) Lieutenant General Fazal Haq, said the Zulfaqr terrorist organization has reorganized itself in Kabul so as to sabotage the upcoming elections in Pakistan. The general said that the government has taken all precautions to prevent such sabotage and will deal very strictly with any situation that may arise. Gen Fazal Haq said that eight or nine groups of the terrorists in the Zulfaqr organization have been assigned to terrorise people in Pakistan and to spread hopelessness.

Whatever the NWFP governor has said endorses the concern expressed by President Ziaul Haq and other leaders with regard to a possible sabotage and terrorism aimed at spreading fear among the people and disturbing the elections. It is quite natural that the persons who talk of driving into Pakistan sitting on Soviet tanks and who, when outside the country, spread poisonous propaganda against Pakistan and talk of taking revenge, may also be capable of attempting to sabotage the elections. Which outside countries are backing them should not be mentioned here, but now should the public counter such elements is a matter of public interests. The government seems fully aware of its duty. It should not pay attention to any talk of a boycott of the elections and will watch out for people spreading rumors. The public in turn should believe in the assurances given by President Ziaul Haq, which he reported after announcing an elections schedule on 12 August. The national mass media also should, in public interests, expose the negative elements and advise the people to have a positive attitude toward the upcoming elections. We must all be aware that our enemies, in various shapes and forms, are engaged in battles against our interests and the elections are only one of such fronts. When we have defeated the foreign agents within the country on this front we will make Pakistan a much stronger and stable country.

CSO: 4656/24

COMMENTARY ON FEARS OF ELECTION SABOTAGE

GF101225 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 31 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Fears of Arson"]

[Excerpts] The NWFP governor-general, Lieutenant-General Fazle Haq, said in a speech at a reception near Peshawar yesterday that "the Al-Zulfiqar terrorist organization has once again set up its headquarters at Kabul and renewed its activities. It has formed eight groups to carry out sabotage during the elections. The Bhutto brothers are said to be in Kabul and are planning to cause disturbances during the forthcoming elections. The groups are scheduled to set off bomb explosions and in the near future, if there are any bomb explosions, they will have a hand in it, but the government is fully prepared for all such eventualities."

There is no reason to doubt the utterances of the NWFP governor, because he is the most knowledgeable person in the area. If he says that the Al-Zulfiqar organization has resumed activities, we expect it is the truth and not political slander, and we expect that the government will arrest the unidentified arsonists before they succeed in their nefarious designs. In the past there have been some explosions in Peshawar. One such explosion took place in a Peshawar theater in which six innocent civilians were killed. Now the governor has predicted more explosions. The federal and provincial governments have an obligation to locate and wipe out the arsonists. Concerning the allegation that the subversive organization aims to sabotage the elections, we will take the liberty of saying that the holding of the elections does not so much depend on the conducive or unfavorable atmosphere as it does on the genuine and sincere intentions of the government. Here we can cite the example of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is embroiled in a war with Iraq on the one hand and internal opponents' terrorism on the other hand. But it has conducted a series of elections, without using the pretext of a "favorable" atmosphere to postpone them, even though in Iran's case, it could be considered a genuine excuse. This should prove that circumstances do not hinder the holding of elections. There are other reasons for postponement of elections.

If the fears being aired today are that some groups are trying to sabotage the elections and setting of explosions then the question arises that despite all resources and means, why is the government unable to control these elements? Nevertheless, in view of the repeated assurances by the government on the holding of elections, we hope that nothing will sabotage the elections.

CSO: 4656/27

RESTRICTIONS ON RECENTLY RELEASED LEADER DENOUNCED

GF041312 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 15 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "What Kind of Release is This?"]

[Excerpts] The (retired) Marshal Asghar Khan's detention has ended. The recent release of political leaders has started speculation that the government would soon have talks with them. However, along with the issuance of the release orders of Asghar Khan the newspapers were also instructed not to publish any statement by him. Notwithstanding the instructions, certain newspapers did in fact publish his statements and interviews. His statements and the interviews contained nothing objectionable nor anything against the government. In fact, certain sections of his talk were beneficial from the government viewpoint. Mr Asghar Khan kept his viewpoint very constructive and positive. He also admitted that our rulers were patriotic and that the only differences were the differences of viewpoints. He said he would not confront the government because of such differences, but that he would rather try to reach an understanding with the government.

However, despite such good talk by Asghar Khan the newspapers have been instructed not to publish his statements and no statements by the national working committee of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party [Asghar Khan's party] has ever been allowed to appear in the press, and now a report says that Asghar Khan has been prohibited from entering Sind Province. This certainly cannot be a decision of the Sind provincial government, because political decisions are usually made by the center. But why were such orders issued? What would have happened if Asghar Khan had entered Sind Province? Similarly Nawazada Nasrullah Khan has been released but the ban on publishing his statements continues although he also has made several constructive statements. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan (MRD) [movement for restoration of democracy] with regard to Afghanistan has said that he could not accept Soviet occupation of that country. He has also hinted that he was against confrontation between the politicians and the government and that he favored reaching an understanding with the government. It is expected that if Nasrullah Khan had wished to visit Sind he would have been prohibited, just like Asghar Khan. However if the government wants to improve relations with the political leaders to find solutions to the problems such negative behavior would hardly help. It will only aggravate matters and enhance bitterness. It is true that martial law is a fact but if a political process is to begin the government

starting its political program must realise that the politicians are also allowed to speak their own political viewpoints. Little understanding or agreement would be achieved if the politicians were not allowed to speak their views, or if they were prohibited from moving between the provinces. If the government had contemplated continuing such bans and prohibitions what was to be achieved by releasing the politicians. What use are such releases that the politicians cannot speak their views even after their release, or just move freely between the provinces to consult others regarding their own programs?

We demand from the government that since it wants to hold elections with the aim of establishing a civil administration it should also adopt political methods. Little will be achieved by adopting a civil method unless real civil authority is established. We demand that the politicians should not be prohibited from speaking their views. The other politicians and leaders who are still under detention should also be released immediately, so that all should join the talks and take part in the upcoming elections.

CSO: 4656/23

BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY RESPONSIBLE FOR SIND UNREST

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 24 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "How To Improve the Situation in Sind"]

[Text] The incident of the Thori railway crossing, which led to the death of some students and the arrest of others, has sparked a series of protests demanding an impartial enquiry into the causes of the incident. This demand is being made not only by students and lawyers of inner Sind, but even the prestigious leaders of Karachi and Punjab have demanded that the results of a speedy enquiry into the causes of the incident be brought before the public. The Karachi Bar Association has also passed a resolution about it, and 30 office-holders and members of the Sukkar Bar Association have had lawsuits filed against them for protesting martial law orders. The incidents of strikes and subversion in Sind are instigated by antinational elements who want to see the students and the public pitted against the government. It would be a mistake to use the police or the army under the present circumstances, since it would give the miscreants further grounds for spreading discontent among the public. That is what they are waiting for. The use of force is the thing to be shunned in the present situation. What is needed is freedom for the people to take part in healthy and patriotic politics. It is the ban on politics and the restrictions on the press that have poisoned the atmosphere in the country. This the root cause of the unrest in Sind. This unrest is like a volcano that can erupt at any time and cause untold damage to the country. The only way to save the situation is to do away with all the restrictions placed on political parties and political activity. This will bring a breath of fresh air to the country. Political activity is a must for purifying the political atmosphere. The regime will never be able to hold elections if the present state of resentment continues. It is no use trying to hold nonpolitical elections since politics cannot be banished from the country. It will only increase the discontent in Sind, and antinational elements will have another excuse for making trouble in that province. Our rulers should give up their antipolitics attitude and let the people have their right to take part in political activity. They should be given a definite schedule for the elections, with the guarantee that what they are going to get are elections and not mere nominations. It would be better to hold the elections in December 1984 rather than in 1985. That is what the Ansari commission recommended, but the rulers ignored it because it was not to their liking. If it

is not possible to hold the elections in the current year, then the least that can be done is to make everything about the elections quite clear and unambiguous, so that the people can be confident that they will be able to choose their future and fulfill their political aspirations through elections in the beginning of 1985. This is the only way to solve the problem of Sind.

12476

CSO: 4656/22

PAKISTAN

COMMENTS ON GHAFFAR KHAN'S REMARKS

GF121318 Lahore JANG in Urdu 25 Oct 84 pp 3, 5

[Editorial: "In the Interest of the Nation and the Country"]

[Text] The founder of the Khudai Khidmatgar party and a senior politician, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, has in a recent statement said that the needs of the nation and the country are that the misunderstanding between the Pashtuns and the people in Punjab should be removed. The Pashtun leader said that the Pashtuns have been maligned for a long time now. It is being said that the Pashtuns are traitors and opposed to Pakistan. This is being said despite the fact that the Pashtuns made many sacrifices in struggle against British colonialism, which made the founding of Pakistan possible.

The statement by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan also includes, among other things, the desire to remove misunderstandings existing between the Pashtuns and the people of Punjab. There is no question that there is indeed a need to remove misunderstandings between these two peoples. If it had been just a question of differences of opinion among individuals it would have been an easy matter.

We think it is time for Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan to come forward and try to remove the misunderstandings existing between the peoples of various regions which according to him have been created by vested interests and that these very interests have been creating doubts against his person as well. If the Pashtun leader himself will take such a step it will be indeed beneficial to the interests of the nation and the country. We see no obstacles in his doing so.

CSO: 4656/24

TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDER ON LAW OF EVIDENCE

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: The President today promulgated a Presidential order as approved by the Cabinet, to be called the Qanun-i-Shahadat, 1984, so as to enact a law of evidence which is in conformity with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah and is fully adapted to the needs of modern times.

The order has been issued after considering recommendations of the Council of Islamic Ideology and the Majli-i-Shoora, comments of the provincial Governments, views of a committee consisting of the Chief Justice and two Ulema, judges of the Federal Shariat Court and Pakistan Law Commission's reports.

Salient features

The following are the salient features of the order:-

1. All persons shall be competent to testify unless the court considers that they are prevented from understanding the questions put to them, or from giving rational answers to those questions, by tender years, extreme old age, disease, whether of body or mind or any other cause of the same kind: provided that a person shall not be competent to testify if he has been convicted by a court for perjury or giving false evidence: provided further that the provisions of the first proviso shall not apply to a person about whom the court is

satisfied that he has repented thereafter and mended his ways:

Provided further that the court shall determine the competence of a witness in accordance with the qualifications prescribed by the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah for a witness, and, where such witness is not forthcoming, the court may take evidence of a witness who may be available.

Explanation:- A lunatic is not incompetent to testify, unless he is prevented by his lunacy from understanding the questions put to him and giving rational answers to them.

2. An accomplice shall be a competent witness against an accused person, except in the case of an offence punishable with Hadd: and a conviction is not illegal merely because it proceeds upon the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice.

3. The competence of a person to testify, and the number of witnesses required in any case shall be determined in accordance with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in any law relating to the enforcement of Hudood or any other special law:-

(a) In matters pertaining to financial or future obligations, if reduced to writing, the instrument shall be attested by two men or one man and two women, so that one

may remind the other, if necessary, and evidence shall be led accordingly: and

(b) In all other matters, the court may accept, or act on, the testimony of one man or one woman or such other evidence as the circumstances of the case may warrant.

4. It makes secondary evidence admissible in a case in which, due to the volume of the original document, copies thereof have been made by means of microfilming or other modern devices.

5. It empowers the court to allow the production of evidence that may become available because of modern devices or techniques.

6. It provides that, except in cases under the laws relating to enforcement of Hudood or other criminal cases, when the plaintiff takes oath in support of his claim, the court shall, on the application of the plaintiff, call upon the defendant to deny the claim on oath.

"The accused will now be a competent witness and liable to be cross-examined like any other witness."

7. It extends to the whole of Pakistan and applies to all judicial proceedings in or before any court, including a court martial, a tribunal or other authority exercising judicial or quasi-judicial powers or jurisdiction, but does not apply to proceedings before an arbitrator.

—APP

LAWYERS PROTEST EVENTS IN SIND, BOYCOTT COURTS

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct. 27: City lawyers boycotted court proceedings for three hours on Saturday in protest against events in Sind last week which led to the death of three students.

A joint meeting of the District and High Court Associations was held at the Lahore High Bar Room in which speakers criticised the incident and highhandedness of the police and other official agencies.

Ghaibana Namaz-i-Janaza (funeral prayers in absentia) was also held outside the Bar Room, led by Mr. Khan A. Hamid, Vice-President of the Lahore High Court Bar.

Earlier, a joint meeting of the two Bars was held under the Chairmanship of Chaudhary Khalid Mahmood, which was also addressed by Mr. Abid Hasan Minto, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Advocate, Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad, Mr. Ehsan Wyne, Rana Zulqarnain and Mr. Asif Fasihuddin Verdag.

A resolution passed at the meeting strongly condemned the action of the security forces in which some students were killed in Sind and demanded a judicial inquiry within seven days by a retired Judge of the High Court acceptable to the Sukkur District and Sind High Court Bar Associations. The house also authorised Mr. Abid Hasan Minto, Chairman, National Co-ordination Committee of Lawyers, to appoint a tribunal for conducting an independent inquiry. The meeting also demanded that people responsible for the incident be punished.

CSO: 4600/70

QADIANIS: SHARIAT COURT JUDGMENT ON ORDINANCE RELEASED

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: The detailed judgment given by the Federal Shariat Court dismissing the petition filed by Qadianis challenging the Qadiani Ordinance was released by the court on Sunday.

The judgment is spread over 224 foolscap typed pages.

The court in its judgment had declared that the Ordinance was not in any way repugnant to the injunctions of Holy Quran and Sunnah.

The Court, inter alia, observed:

"Some members of the Qadiani community made petitions to the Federal Shariat Court urging that the provisions contained in the Anti-Islamic Activities of the Qadiani Group, Lahori Group and Ahmadis (Prohibition and Punishment) Ordinance, 1984, might be declared as repugnant to Quran and Sunnah. The petitions were heard by the Federal Shariat Court at length. Through the above-mentioned Ordinance, Section 298-B and 298C have been added to the PPC.

According to Section 298B any person of the Qadiani Group or the Lahori Group (who call themselves Ahmadis or by any other name) who (a) refers to or addresses any person other than a Caliph or Companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as "Ameer-ul-Mumineen," "Khalifa-tul-Mumineen," "Khalifa-tul-Muslimeen," "Sahabi" or "Razi Allah Anho," (b) refers to or addresses any person, other than a wife of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) as Ummul-Mumineen, (c) refers to, or addresses, any person, other than a member of the family (Ahle Bait) of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) as Ahle Bait or

(d) refers to, or names or calls his place of worship as "Masjid," shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

Similarly, the reference by said persons to call for prayers as Azan or calling of Azan for their prayers by them has been made punishable with same term of imprisonment and fine. A similar punishment has been provided for the persons of said group if they pose themselves as or call themselves Muslims. The Federal Shariat Court has dismissed the petitions through a detailed order announced today (Sunday).

The points raised before the Court, inter alia, included the question whether there has been absolute cessation of prophethood after Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and that he was the last of the prophets not to be followed by any kind of prophet.

Prophethood

1. "The Court has relied upon Quran, Sunnah and the authoritative interpretations and opinions of both the Sunni and Shia renowned commentators to hold that there is absolute cessation of prophethood after Prophet Muhammad (P.B.H.) and that he was the last of the prophets not to be followed by any kind of prophet. The other findings recorded by the Court are stated in the succeeding paragraphs.

2. The Prophet Jesus (P.B.H.) will appear in this world as a member of Muslim Ummah and follower of Islamic Shariah and that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad is neither the promised Messiah nor Mehdi.

3. That those who falsify the clear and general verses of Holy Quran by resort to its taweel and particularisation are not believers and as Mirza Ghulam Ahmad did so he was infidel.

4. Life history of Mr. Ghulam Ahmad shows that he was a cheat and unscrupulous man who step by step and with a design manoeuvred by his writings and sayings to establish himself as "Mohaddis" and then "Zilli" and "Bruzi" nabi and rasul and messiah.

5. All his predictions and prophesies were found false but in order to avoid the ridicule of his opponents he on occasions re-interpreted his writings to say that he never claimed "prophethood" or apostleship."

6. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad himself proclaimed that "God has revealed to him that everyone to whom my message has reached and who does not accept me a prophet is not a Muslim."

The same thing was said of him by Ch. Zafarullah Khan who refused to join funeral prayers of Quaid-i-Azam. Even in Qadian his followers did not permit Muslims to call believers to prayers by "Azan."

7. That there was no covenant by Quaid-i-Azam or Pakistan with Qadianis to treat them as Muslims or to let them preach their faith in the name of Islam.

8. That refusal to allow them to act as Muslims does not mean interference in their right to profess or practise their religion. They can

do so as long as they do not call themselves Muslims or misrepresent their faith to convert people to that faith.

9. The use of expressions "Ummul Mumineen," "Amirul Mumineen," "Khalifatul Mumineen," "Khalifatul Muslimeen" may deceive the people that the bearers of such names are Muslims. Similarly, the expression "Raziallah Anho" is used in the Quran as blessings for the Companions of Holy Prophet (PBH). Likewise, "Sahabi" and "Ahle Bait" are used by Muslims respectively for the Companions and the members of the family of the Holy Prophet.

Pose as Muslims

10. That insistence on the part of Qadianis to pose as Muslims, act as Muslims, use the epithets and titles and names of Muslim holy personages and places, has always caused annoyance to Muslims and created serious law and order problems making it obligatory for the State to enact a law.

11. That the Ordinance XX of 1984 making it an offence punishable with imprisonment and fine for the misuse by Qadianis or Lahoris of epithets and titles etc. reserved for certain holy personages or places and their posing themselves as Muslims and referring to their faith as Islam or calling people to prayers to Azan as used by Muslims, is a valid law."—APP.

ZIA EXPLAINS BENEFITS OF EVIDENCE LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 84 p 8

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct 28: President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said on Sunday that the Qanun-i-Shahadat (Law of Evidence) promulgated by him on Saturday has been enforced in the country forthwith.

He was hopeful that the new law, which was in conformity with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in Holy Quran and Sunnah, would greatly help and benefit the people and meet their requirements.

In an informal chat with the journalists at the lunch hosted in his honour by the acting Governor of Baluchistan, Lt-Gen K.K. Afridi, at the Governor House here on Sunday afternoon, the President pinpointed briefly the benefits which would be drawn by the people, in an Islamic society. It is another landmark in shaping the Islamic order in Pakistan, he said.

The President impressed upon the media and the Press the need for playing their vital role in projecting the Qanun-i-Shahadat and educating the masses on its various aspects.

The President also said that the Qazi courts would be set up in about two months time.

The President is scheduled to address a Press conference on Tuesday next.

Earlier Gen. Zia-ul-Haq visited a cross-section of army-units of the Quetta Garrison in the morning.

Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, who is also the Chief of the Army Staff spent more than three hours with the troops during his visit to these army units.

Accompanied by the Corps Commander, Lt. Gen K. K. Afridi, the

President first visited an infantry unit followed by the visit of the two other units.

During his visit to these army units, Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq inspected the Quarter Guards, signed the visitors books, met the officers and junior commissioned officers and visited the training areas of the units.

At training areas of each unit, the respective Commanding Officers briefed the President about the training programmes and other welfare activities of the troops.

Gen Zia-ul-Haq extensively toured the training areas of each unit and saw the troops engaged in their normal professional training in their respective field.

The President later also paid a surprise visit to the Combined Military Hospital. The President spent some time in the hospital and enquired about the welfare and health of the patients. The Commanding Officer explained to the President the treatment and facilities being provided to the patients.

Lt Gen K. K. Afridi, Corps Commander, accompanied the President during his visit.

Delegations

Talking to a delegation, consisting of prominent Ulema, Chairmen Ushr and Zakat Committees and Nazmeen Salaat, President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has said that the Government was determined to enforce Islam in the country.

He urged them and the people in general to sustain the efforts of the

Government towards Islamisation.

The delegation lauded the efforts of the Government for the enforcement of Islam and assured their full cooperation in this regard.

The delegation also congratulated the President on the promulgation of Presidential Orders regarding Qanun-i-Shahadat.

Earlier, a delegation of elders of Quetta Division also called on the President and discussed with him the development work being done in the province specially Quetta Division. The elders expressed satisfaction over the pace of development in the province and assured the President of their supports to the Government in the task of upliftment.

General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was the guest of honour at a luncheon party hosted in his honour by the Acting Governor of Baluchistan, Lt-Gen. K.K. Afridi on the lush green lawns of the Governor House here on Sunday.

Condolence

President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq on Sunday afternoon visited the residence of late Chief Justice Zakaullah Lodi of Baluchistan High Court.

He offered Fateha and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the wife of late Chief Justice and his eldest son.

Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, accompanied by the Acting Governor, Baluchistan, Lt. Gen. K.K. Afridi paid a visit to the provincial Civil Hospital here on Sunday.—APP/PPI.

COMMENTARY ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE

GF121004 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 29 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Changes in the Law of Evidence"]

[Text] The president of Pakistan has issued a new law, the evidence act of 1984, which is said to conform with the Shari'a and traditions of the Prophet of Islam. However, there is little difference between the law and the Western law of evidence except that according to this law, in matters of civil transactions the two women as witnesses will be considered equal to one man. Under the new law, in all other matters men and women as witnesses will be considered equal.

It is expected that a majority of Ulema will object to the new law and may pronounce it as contradictory to Islam, or even unislamic. Modern thinkers believing in the equality of men and women may reject it because it does not accept equality between a man and a woman if only in witnessing financial transactions. It seems both schools of thought may reject the new law. Both modern and conservative classes will object to it. As far as the competency of a witness is concerned, the new law also provides that the courts will decide if the action of a witness conforms to Islamic teachings in any given case. It also provides that in cases where such witnesses conforming to the new law are not available, the court may accept the testimony of a person who is present. This would mean that in case a witness having a duty to Islam cannot be found, he or she could be replaced by a witness who does not conform to the duty prescribed by Islam. This exception has probably been inserted for those cases in which there is little choice of witnesses, or the witnesses do not conform to the standards of duty and moral soundness prescribed by Islam, in the case of hired or professional witnesses. Or in cases where witnesses refuse to give testimony in a court of law. Under the present system, which is still in effect, a police case usually collapses without the aid of stock witnesses and few criminals receive their punishment.

However, this situation must be solved. This may be achieved by not only changing the law of evidence but by changing the whole legal system. Under the current system of justice only the current law of evidence can be effective. However, if an Islamic connection to the system is necessary or if it is not possible to maintain the Islamic standards of capacity for the witness, more changes will have to be made.

Our problem is not a problem of an act of evidence, which if changed or amended would solve our problems. But we need to demolish the entire old system of justice and set up a new system. This new system will not require false witnesses, nor will it require huge sums of money to grease the wheels of justice. It would be a system that would be both swift and effective.

CSO: 4656/23

WOMEN EXPRESS REACTION AGAINST EVIDENCE LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 84 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct 28: Women's organisations have reacted sharply against the promulgation of the new Law of Evidence because it has "reduced women to the level of legal destitutes and reduced their chances to improve their lot in almost all other walks of life."

In a joint statement to the Press, the Punjab Women Lawyers' Association, the Anjuman-i-Behbood-i-Khwateen and the Women's Action Forum have called upon all the women, individually and collectively, to boycott all functions of the Government and urged the members of the Commission on the Status of Women to resign immediately.

Ms Hina Jilani, Begum Mehnaz Rafi and Ms Shehnaz Wazir Ali, leaders of the three organisations, stated that the Qanoon-i-Shahadat 1984 was a vague and incompetent piece of legislation which has left the way open for unending controversies on the interpretation of Quranic injunctions.

The situation had been deliberately created to further weaken a

society already beset with dissensions on religious issues. The authors of the law have demonstrated their contempt for the will of the people by arbitrarily putting in on the statute, they said.

The three leaders stated that the new law had created feelings of deep despondency among women especially those whose competence as a principal parties to financial transactions had been whittled down.

According to the women representatives, the law was a measure to appease a few persons who had always wanted to keep women under their heels.

They said that the issue was no longer confined to women. It now concerned all members of society and as such it was the obligation of all sane people not only to condemn the "discriminating" piece of legislation but also to show solidarity with the women in their struggle for justice for all sections of society regardless of creed, colour or sex.

CSO: 4600/72

MORE REACTIONS TO EVIDENCE LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 84 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 28: The Presidential Order on the Law of Evidence issued on Saturday has been welcomed by some religious figures, but women's groups in Karachi have criticized it for being discriminatory toward women.

Article 3-A of the law relating to women states: "In matters pertaining to financial or future obligations, if reduced to writing, the instrument shall be attested by two men or one man and two women, so that one may remind the other, if necessary, and evidence shall be led accordingly."

Maulana Abdul Rahman Sulfi of Jamaat Ahle Hadith in his statement lauded the Presidential Order for its Islamic bias and hoped that the laws of Qisas and Diyat would also be soon put on the statute books.

Maulana Irshadul Haq Thanvi, another Islamic scholar, praised the passage of the Law of Evidence, hoping it would gain acceptance among the educated women. "They (educated women) now have no ground to carry on agitation on this issue," he said.

Women's groups, however, have expressed strong disapproval of the new Law of Evidence, saying they would protest against its implementation.

A statement issued by the "Anjuman-i-Jamhooriyat Pasand Khwateen" President Ms. Mumtaz Noorani said that her organization condemned the law for trying to push back women. "We don't want

status, we want equality," she declared.

Ms. Shamim Kazmi, President of the Association of Business, Professional and Agricultural Women, said that implementation of the Law of Evidence would create "a lot of problems for women," depending on how the wording "financial and future obligations" was interpreted and how far it was applied.

Ms. Amna Khamisani, Acting President of the Pakistan Federation of Business and Professional Women, said that women were well versed in financial matters, so that there was no need to make it necessary for two women to testify in financial matters. "A woman may take along another woman if she feels nervous about testifying alone," she opined.

Ms. Rashida Patel, Vice-Chairperson of All Pakistan Women's Association and President of Pakistan Women Lawyers' Association, called it "strange" that the court should be given the power to determine whether a witness was competent to testify according to the Islamic injunctions.

In her opinion the excessive power given to courts is "going to create more confusion."

Ms. Humera Rehman of Women's Action Forum called the passage of the Law of Evidence a "carefully thought-out policy to denigrate women." WAF is considering mobilizing other women's groups to protest the law, she said.

WARNING AGAINST 'FIFTH COLUMNISTS'

GF021758 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Peshawar, Oct 29--The NWFP governor, Lt. Gen. Fazle-Haq has called upon the people to guard against the evil designs of the "fifth columnists" pitted to create discord, despondency and disruption in the country through a sustained whispering campaign.

In his inaugural address at the provincial council, which began its two day session here on Monday, the governor deplored the whispering campaign and regretted that despite the president's categorical announcement for holding free and fair elections and to transfer power to elected representatives, these elements were resorting to rumour mongering to impede the process of restoration of democracy in the country, with ulterior motives.

Internally, the fifth columnists were engaged in rumour mongering, and externally the number and movement of foreign troops on the nation's eastern and western borders had increased. Coupled with this was the stepped up provocations and violations of the country's air space, he said.

The governor noted that the false and baseless rumours seemed to have no other motive except to sabotage the president's election programme. The situation, therefore, demanded that the people should maintain complete unity and harmony in their ranks to foil the evil designs of these elements, he added.

The governor also urged the people to keep strict vigil on the machinations of the vested interests, who were stepping up their villification campaign against the Afghan refugees, on the basis of unfounded and imaginary rumours to create hatred between the refugees and the locals. It was ironical, he said, that this campaign was being intensified as the elections were nearing. He regretted that although 70 percent of these refugees were lodged in the NWFP, the whispering campaign was emanating from other areas, without any reason and justification.

Gen. Fazle-Haq said that the Afghan refugees were not angels. Yet, it was highly unrealistic to blame them for everything happening here. Blasts had taken place in the past, even before the influx of the Afghan refugees. Blasts had also taken place in most developed countries, having ultra-modern

security systems. He, however, held out an assurance to the people that there was nothing to be scared about.

The government was fully prepared to meet any situation, with regard to the protection of life, honour and property of the citizens. All sabotage attempts would be foiled, he said exhorting the people to remain on guard and to maintain unity in their ranks.

CSO: 4600/73

CONCERN OVER 'SHRINKING RUPEE'

GF041044 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Ceaseless Shrinking of the Rupee"]

[Text] Despite official insistence that what was done on January, 1982, was not devaluation, the rupee is not floating as much as sliding down constantly. It has now hit its lowest of 14.46 to a dollar from Rs. 9.90 in January, 1982--a devaluation, in effect, of 52 percent. And the forward cover for six months for commercial imports at Rs. 14.52 shows the possible future trends.

Undoubtedly the ever-hardening U.S. dollar is driving many currencies to the wall and weakening others. But it is not proper to say that this is the only reason why the rupee has been sliding down for the last nearly three years. While the rupee fares badly against the dollar and a few other strong currencies, it is doing better against some other currencies which matter. The government therefore chose the middle path and resolved to express its exports in SDR. But the fact is that about 80 percent of our trade still takes place in dollars, and Pakistan's customers prefer this hard currency to others even when their own currencies, like the D-mark or Yen, are not soft. Hence the exchange rate of the rupee in relation to the dollar is really very important.

The fact is that when the exchange rate of the rupee keeps on slipping the import costs go up in rupees, and along with that the customs duties and sales tax based on their import prices, while the exports become cheaper for Pakistan's foreign buyers. Simultaneously, the national debt estimated at 10 billion dollars becomes heavier in terms of rupees. And on a personal level, foreign education, travel, books, medicines, etc, will cost far more.

Even the exports, which devaluation or floating down of the rupee helps initially, suffer later when cost of their imported inputs, oils, chemicals and other raw materials go up. That is why devaluation is often a self-defeating exercise, and one devaluation follows another, and it becomes hard to break out of the vicious chain. But the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are strongly opposed to export subsidies beyond a point and insist on devaluation whenever developing countries face an export crisis or balance of payments problems. But what really matters is the internal

strength of the rupee, its purchasing power and its stability. When taxes go up internally, prices rise, wage increases follow and ultimately the export prices shoot up. And when energy and transport costs are pushed up, as was done during the June budget, the price level has to rise all around. Official insistence that the cost of living index went up by only 0.26 in August or 8 percent for the whole year ending August 31, does not reflect the reality of the market or the hardships arising out of the desperate efforts of the masses to make both ends meet.

The government has to admit the reality of facts and the existence of problems instead of denying or understanding them. Undoubtedly this is a difficult economic period not only in Pakistan but also around the world, including the rich states. But the industrial nations admit the reality of their problems and try to devise remedies, however hard they might be. But the general official tendency in Pakistan is to minimise, if not deny, the problems. Secondly, devaluation has to be followed by post-devaluation supporting measures, like post-surgical care. If that is not done the rupee will keep on slipping and the rising prices cannot be explained away by attributing them to Uncle Sam alone. Indigenous remedies are just as important when Uncle Sam is indifferent to the anguished pleas of other nations.

CSO: 4600/73

STATISTICS ON FOREIGN DEBT

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct 27: Every Pakistani owes about Rs 15,86 in foreign debt at present. The total debt stands at 10.2 billion dollars (about Rs 14,2800 million) and the population is estimated at 90 million.

Of the total debt, 9.7 billion dollars are repayable in foreign exchange, while the remaining half a billion dollars are in local currency.

Pakistan obtained 23.6 billion dollars in foreign assistance during the last 34 years. Of this 18.6 billion dollars were in the form of grants and 5.6 billion dollars in credit.

About 93 per cent of all debt was tied to specified projects or import of commodities from the donor countries, while the remaining 7 per cent was in the form of unrestricted balance of payments support assistance.

Project aid and technical assistance equalled 14 billion dollars and non-project 9.6 billion dollars.

This assistance came from a number of sources including the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium, the Islamic/Opec countries, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, the IMF, IDA, IFC, IFAD, FAO, UNDP and several other countries.

The Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium is the major source of the foreign assistance, as it provides about 81 per cent, of the total assistance to Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/71

RCD REVIVAL EFFORTS SUPPORTED

GF151254 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 1 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] The organization Regional Cooperation for Development [RCD], set up jointly by Turkey, Pakistan and Iran some 20 years ago, fell into disarray after a few years and its future was kept in suspense when the new Iranian regime expressed displeasure over it. Now efforts are being made to revive it one way or the other. Pakistan has supported it from the very beginning and Iran has recently agreed to revive it. Now the Turkish foreign minister, on his visit to Pakistan, has said that there should be increased cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey within the framework of the RCD. In his statements to the press he said that he has held talks with the Pakistan foreign minister about the status of the RCD. He added that they also exchanged views on the new name proposed for this organization by Iran. It has been decided, he said, that a meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries concerned should be held before a final decision is made.

It seems that the Turkish foreign minister holds the view that the countries concerned should concentrate all their attention on the economic aspect of the organization. The fact is that when the Istanbul pact was signed and the RCD center was set up, too much was included in the work agenda. But this proved to be of only academic interest because when the time came for action and difficulties arose, the organization lost its capacity to work. In fact, nothing of any importance was accomplished of which the organization should be proud. Whatever they did, they did halfheartedly. Of course, much was done but on paper only. No steps were taken toward any solid work. Now that the program is being made to work for the social welfare of the people only, this augurs well because at least some solid steps could be taken in this field, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey have adjacent borders and the three are linked by religious and cultural ties. Nobody can deny this. There are some differences on their foreign policies but since politics do not fall under the jurisdiction of the organization, differences in their foreign policies would not matter. Moreover whatever step they take for the economic good of the people, it will be good for all three countries. There are several branches in the social welfare schemes--there will be cooperation in the communications sector, cooperation in the transportation sector; whatever is done in these sectors will be a valuable asset. When one country is to transform its economic system into a new framework, they will be able to find out what industry is more advanced in what country and

then they will adjust their programs accordingly. Perhaps they could divide one industry into three parts and thus one country could gain more expertise in the part allotted to it.

The economic struggle going on between the north and south could be resolved, they say, if the southern developing countries cooperate with each other and become a mutual source of aid. In fact, if an economic center comes into being involving these three countries then they would be less dependent on foreign countries. Such a center will also receive support from the general public because all three countries share one religion and one culture. They have many things in common in their history and tradition also. All these elements will help in the economic cooperation.

CSO: 4656/27

ADB OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT POSSIBLE CREDIT

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 24: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was aiming at lending \$400 million to Pakistan every year from 1985 but this would depend on availability of "good projects."

"We are interested to continue to lend to Pakistan since the bank has good relations with this country," Mr Gunther Schulz, Vice-President, ADB said here on Wednesday.

In an interview before his departure for Manila after a seven-day visit to Pakistan, he said this year the bank's lending to Pakistan would be to the tune of \$380 million.

He disclosed that during his meeting with the Sind Governor, Lt-Gen. Jahan Dad Khan here on Tuesday he discussed the Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) project of Sind. ADB's contribution for the project of \$122 million would come up for approval at the bank's Board of Directors meeting being held in Manila on October 25, he added.

Mr Schulz also disclosed that a health project in Sind for which the ADB will give \$15 million will come up for approval before the Board's meeting by the end of this year.

Replying to a question, he said during his meeting with Sind Governor and high officials of the Provincial Government discussions were held on future projects for the

bank's consideration. Besides progress of work on on-going projects was also discussed. "We are aiming at completion of all projects on schedule", he added.

He also spoke about his meetings with Chairmen, PICIC, IDBP, SGTC and BEL in Karachi and said he exchanged views with them on the utilisation of bank's credits given to these financial institutions. "Once these were fully utilised the bank would consider new credit lines."

Answering a question, Mr Schulz said he had told officials of Pakistan Government that the bank was prepared to finance upto 80 per cent of the total cost of a project. The remaining amount has to be generated locally.

Referring to his meeting with President Zia-ul-Haq, he said it was a courtesy call. He said the ADB President visited Pakistan last year. "My current visit was a follow up of the bank's President tour last year."

He said during his meetings with Federal Ministers, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Dr. Mahbubul Haq he was informed about the priorities of the Government particularly in social sector, education and health.

Mr Schulz accompanied by his wife later left for Manila.—PPI.

WAPDA OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT LONG-RANGE PLANS

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 Business Supplement p 1

Text]

LAHORE, Oct 27: WAPDA is working on a 25-year power development plan in collaboration with the World Bank to cater for the needs of the demand of power in the coming years.

This was disclosed by Lt-Gen. Ghulam Safdar Butt at a high level meeting between WAPDA and the visiting directors of the World Bank, Messrs Russel J. Cheetham and Enrique Lardau, at WAPDA House on Saturday morning.

The World Bank directors are currently on the tour of Pakistan after taking over their new assignments which cover the South Asia region including Pakistan.

A number of power projects currently being aided by the World Bank and which are planned to be aided in the coming years came up for discussion. These included the 3rd power project currently under execution, up-grading 500 KV Gatti-Jamshoro line currently operating on 220 KV, the mining of coal as well as establishment of power station based on Lakra coal etc. WAPDA Chief informed that WAPDA plans to set up 300 MW power station at Lakra but ultimately the total capacity would be 2000 MW based on lignite at Lakra.

On the water side the background of the Indus Basin Treaty was given to the World Bank directors. They were informed that the cutting off of the water supplies by India to canals fed by the eastern rivers had affected 9 million acres of land, and if no alternate arrangements were made, it would have taken away the livelihood

from 10 million people.

Other future water projects also came up for discussion.

The meeting on behalf of WAPDA was attended by Chairman, members of the Authority and senior general managers. The World Bank directors were assisted by Mr Saddington and Mr Amanullah Malik of the World Bank Resident Mission, Islamabad.

Clarification

WAPDA has clarified a news item published in a section of the Press regarding revision of electricity rates. A WAPDA spokesman said that WAPDA has undertaken to build up new thermal stations and additional transmission lines under a crash programme to meet the current power shortage. These projects are being undertaken through loans/financing made available by foreign aid giving agencies. In order to be able to meet the re-payment of these loans and also the operating expenses, which are also going up day by day, WAPDA has recommended to the Federal Government for revision of electricity rates during the next two years.

It is, however upto the Federal Government's Power Rates Advisory Committee to approve any changes in the current tariff, if necessary.

It is also too early to say, that the enhancement of rates, if approved, will be for all the categories of the consumers. —PPI

FLOUR SHORTAGES, PRICE INCREASE REPORTED

GF121144 Lahore JANG in Urdu 18 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Costlines of Flour"]

[Text] According to newspaper reports the price of flour has been rising continuously. Quite contrary to government set prices, the flour price in the market has reached 2.6 rupees per kilogram. The government set a price of 35 rupees for an 18 kg bag of wheat flour at the beginning of this month. But today the same bag is being sold for 45 rupees in the market--which means a 30 percent price increase.

This situation is partly the result of bad weather and partly the result of misquoted statistics issued by various government departments which have misled the government and the public at large. There was so much talk of a "surplus wheat production" that several thousand tons of wheat were exported. In fact, even the government purchase quota had not been met. Now it has been announced that the government wants to import 10,000 tons of wheat. If the purchase statistic had been correct, if the government purchase quantity had been quoted correctly, there would have been little need now for importing wheat. Nor had there been the shortage of wheat grain now being felt within the country. There are still some 6 months before the new wheat crop is ready. Traditionally, in this country, wheat prices rise during November and December each year. The reason for this rise is said to be the shortfall because wheat grain is used to seed new cultivation. If this tradition holds there still are chances of a traditional rise in prices during the above-noted months. There has seldom been any clear statistics regarding the government wheat purchases or reserves in storage. This entire situation requires immediate attention. If no effective measures are taken within time the people will suffer more and the situation soon will create conditions for a backbreaking rise in wheat flour prices.

CSO: 4656/27

ECONOMIC COUNCIL APPROVES PROJECT

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 24: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), which met here today, approved a total number of 28 development projects relating to various sectors of national economy, particularly communications, highways, power, energy, industry, housing, aviation, water management etc.

The meeting, presided by the Federal Minister for Finance, Commerce and Economic Coordination, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, was attended by the Federal Ministers for Planning and Development, Production, Communications, Industries, Water and Power, Ministers of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Provincial Ministers for Finance of Punjab, Sind and NWFP, Chief Secretary, Punjab, Secretary-General, Planning and Development Division, Economic Affairs Division, Secretary, Finance, and other Secretaries of concerned economic Federal Ministries and Provincial Secretaries as well as Chairman, WAPDA, Managing Director, PTV etc.

Among the projects approved to day include a scheme for construc-

tion of shingled road from Thakot to Darband, at a cost of Rs 94.717 million.

Under the project, 83.91 Kms long road will be constructed along the left bank of Indus in the black mountains range, along with the construction of cross drainage and protective works.

The project will open up the area and extend basic communication facilities to 800 sq. Kms of isolated area and link it with other parts of the country. It will also assist in extension of other development activities, like education and health, to a population of 150,000 living in 85 villages.

Another scheme, approved by the ECNEC, relates to construction of a by-pass at Moro, along National Highway N-5 and widening and reconditioning of an approach road, 5.375 miles long, to the Dadu-Moro bridge.

The scheme aims at improving the traffic and safety conditions on the National Highway N-5 which presently passes through Moro town. The shift of traffic to the by-pass would enable speedier movement of food and passengers on the National Highway. —APP

CSO: 4600/63

ZIA TO INAUGURATE PAKISTAN STEEL IN DECEMBER

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 24: Pakistan's gigantic Steel Mill complex at Bin Qasim, about 45 kilometers from here, will be formally inaugurated by President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in early December next, according to a Pakistan Steel source.

The steel complex built with the Soviet assistance and having capacity of 1.1 million tons per annum, will be ready in every respect next month, the source said.

The President will also inaugurate the last major unit of the complex-cold rolling mills — as well as the second blast furnace

which recently commenced production and the third unit of the Thermal Power Plant.

A number of high level delegations representing steel industries in Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Republic of Korea and others are expected to participate. Authorities in Pakistan Steel are currently busy preparing for the big occasion.

It may be pointed out that the Pakistan Steel complex comprises a number of plants and units. These include the first blast furnace which was inaugurated by the President on Aug 31, 1981.—PPI

CSO: 4600/63

ENERGY SAVING COOKING UNITS INTRODUCED IN REFUGEE VILLAGES

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Oct 27: Stoves and cooking-gears designed to reduce energy consumption to one tenth, thus considerably lessening pressure on firewood, have been introduced in a number of Afghan refugee tentage villages in the NWFP.

The stoves and cooking-gears, fabricated by the Bellerive Foundation of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, former UNHCR Chief, are simple, cost little, save firewood and are conceived for any fuel available in camps such as wood, woodwaste, bottle gas or kerosene oil. These can be used as community units or run by village bakers.

The Bellerive Foundation started its work to proposed measures for saving firewood in Pakistan, in September last year, on the request of the Pakistan Government and the UNHCR, following growing pressure for firewood in the province.

A practical demonstration of the operation of stoves and cooking-gears was given to a group of local journalists at the Katchagarhi tentage village of Afghan refugees on the outskirts of Peshawar.

Mr Waclaw Micuta, Director of the Bellerive Foundation, Geneva, who supervised the designing and introduction of these energy saving units, said that this would save firewood and thus fight against ecological disaster threatening Pakistan.

Pakistan, having only about five per cent of its total land area under forests is one of the poorest countries internationally in this

connection, he said.

Explaining the functioning of the stoves and cooking-gears, he said that the principal advantage of such ovens is that once brought to their correct temperature, only small additions of fuel will be needed to maintain the desired heat level over long periods.

The models of 'Man' and bread ovens, introduced by the Foundation, have been designed and tested in close cooperation with Pakistani and Afghan bakers, and these ovens bring consumption of fuel to minimum, given better quality of man, protect health and facilitate greatly the work of bakers.

Another advantage of these ovens is that after baking of nans, the accumulated heat may be used for baking leaves or for roasting meat without any additional fuel at all.

He said, bread introduced to the Afghan people for the first time only a few months ago has already been accepted and appreciated by them.

The Foundation has so far produced and supplied about 2,000 such units to the Afghan refugees tentage villages in different parts of the province.

Mr Waclaw Micuta told a questioner that he would submit a comprehensive report to the Government of Pakistan, through the UNHCR, for the introduction of these stoves and cooking-gears in Pakistani villages as well, to save firewood.—APP

PAKISTAN TO ASSIST OMAN IN FARMING

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

FAISALABAD, Oct 27: Pakistan will provide technical assistance to Sultanate of Oman in the field of agriculture and education.

The Sultanate of Oman has sent Mr Muhammad Reda Hassan, Director-General Agriculture and Mr Muhammad Ali, Director Research Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to Pakistan to examine the possibilities of assistance in the two fields.

The agriculture scientists of Oman on Friday visited the University of Agriculture and discussed the structure of under graduate and post graduate education, nature of courses, syllabi and research procedure of the University with Mian Mumtaz Ali, Vice-Chancellor, who was assisted by Dr Abdul Rehman, Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Dr Manzur Ahmad Bajwa, Director General Ayub Agricultural Research Institute.

The Vice Chancellor also ex-

plained the role of Punjab Agricultural Research Coordination Board. The Vice Chancellor assured the visiting scientists that Government of Pakistan and University of Agriculture will provide every possible assistance to the Sultanate of Oman for the establishment of Agricultural University and in the field of agricultural development. The Vice-Chancellor offered the services of teachers, scientists, and research scholars of the University of agriculture for short term and long periods to Oman. He also suggested that frequent exchange of visits by agricultural scientists of both the countries should take place. The Vice Chancellor presented to scientists of Oman a comprehensive book on the University of Agriculture. The scientists of Oman were pleased to know that a number of students from Islamic countries were studying in the Agriculture University. —APP

CSO: 4600/70

IRAN SAID WILLING TO INVEST IN EXISTING JOINT VENTURE

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 Business Supplement p I

[Article by Shaheen Sehba]

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 31: The Iranian Government is understood to have offered to pump in a massive dose of Rs. 650 million into the only existing Pak-Iran joint venture, the Baluchistan-based textile mills.

Informed sources said the offer of the Iranians has already been received by the Government and is being currently studied.

The only condition put by the Iranians is that Pakistan should match all the concessions and funds provided by the Iranians, sources pointed out.

The Pak-Iran Textiles Mills have been closed for the last several months but the management has not laid off the labour.

But, sources said, the losses of the company were increasing with a heavy debt-servicing charge and the Iranians want that the entire interest payable should be waived by the Pakistan government.

Iranian minister

The Iranian Finance Minister is likely to visit Pakistan in the near future to finalise the deal with Pakistan and a thorough restructuring of the project is likely with a change in the equity participation ratio as well, sources pointed out.

Sources say the Iranians had been having second thoughts after Pakistan made partial payment of their debt totalling about US Dollars 24 million. The issue of repayments had been raised last year by the Iranians at a ministerial level meeting led by Finance Ministers of the two countries. The Iranians

are also understood to have assured that they will invest a fresh equity of Rs. 300 million in the project.

Sources said the Finance Ministry in Islamabad was considering the proposals and a favourable response was likely since the project has serious social and political implications as well and the matter could not be considered on purely financial basis.

Problems

The 100,000 spindles project with two units located at Uthal and Quetta, has been facing financial problems ever since it was set up. "The Iranians were cross at why Islamabad was charging from the project 12.5 per cent interest, when the loans had been provided by the Iranian Government at 8 per cent," an informed source said.

Eversince, sources said, funds released by Islamabad have been in bits and pieces whereas managers of the project have been asking for a lumpsum payment to make them viable.

"With the new Iranian offer, a new lease of life may be provided to the project but whether Pakistan can match the tall amounts quickly, is anybody's guess," an expert said.

1983 estimates of NDFC put the figure required for bringing the project into full gear at between Rs. 800m to Rs. 1 billion. Now since Iran has offered Rs. 650 million and Pakistan is being asked to provide an equal amount, the total required would be Rs. 1.3 billion.

IRANIAN REINVESTMENT IN JOINT TEXTILE VENTURES

GF160800 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Nov 84 p 11

[Text] The report that the Iranian Government is willing to invest another Rs 650 million in the Baluchistan-based Pakistan-Iran textile mills will be generally welcomed. This joint project has, of late, suffered setbacks, as a result of which the two textile mills located at Quetta and Uthal have had to be closed for the last several months. The mills which incurred a loss of Rs 820 million could not be put back into operation because of differences between the government of Iran and Pakistan on the mode of financing. Last year, it was estimated that a sum of Rs one million was needed for bringing the project into full gear. The latest Iranian offer of Rs 650 million on the condition that Pakistan should match this figure.

The two textile units have between them 100,000 spindles. Given the size of the project, it is regarded to be of immense socio-economic importance for Baluchistan. In fact, the province needs more such units if it is to derive the full benefit of industrialisation and new opportunities for employment. Therefore, the importance of putting the Pakistan-Iran textile joint venture back into production can hardly be overemphasised. As it is, its losses have been mounting and the workers who have not been laid off are in a state of uncertainty. However, it needs to be pointed out here that simply injecting new funds will not ensure the project's profitability. It is important, that the mills be restructured by streamlining the management and improving their efficiency. Marketing arrangements should also be reviewed if the joint venture is to be run on competitive commercial lines. If the necessary measures are taken, there will be no need to consider the idea of transferring the project to the private sector. This has been a bone of contention between Iran and Pakistan, with the latter insisting that a private entrepreneur could put the project in better financial health and more efficient management.

CSO: 4600/82

WIDENING OF RCD HIGHWAY PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct 25: The Federal Government has approved a plan for widening of the RCD Highway linking Pakistan with Iran and Turkey through central Baluchistan at an estimated cost of Rs. 350 million, Federal Minister for Communication Mr Moyhuddin Baluch told newsmen here on Thursday on his arrival from Islamabad.

He said Karachi-Quetta section of the RCD highway passing through Kalat, Khuzdar, Uthal and Hub would be widened from existing 12 feet to 18 feet to cope with increased passenger and freight traffic.

Mr Baluch said that Rs 300 million had also been sanctioned for the construction of an alternate inter-provincial highway between Baluchistan and NWFP via Quetta,

Zhob and Dera Ismail Khan. Work on it would begin next fiscal year.

He said besides transport and communication, the Govt was also paying special attention to the development of water and power resources in Baluchistan.

He said Rs 500 million have been sanctioned for the construction of Dadu-Khuzdar highpower transmission line to provide an alternate national gridline to provide an alternate national grid link for Baluchistan.

Mr Baluch said the process of development initiated by the present Govt under the directive of President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq had started showing visible signs of progress and prosperity for the people in every sphere of economic activity. —PPI

CSO: 4600/69

PAKISTAN TO CONTEST ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POSTS

Karachi DAWN in English 29 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Article by Babar Ayaz]

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 28: Pakistan will contest the elections for the post of Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Commodity in its forthcoming meeting of the general body on November 8, 1984 at Jeddah.

According to informed sources Mr. Ijaz Malik of the Ministry of commerce will be Pakistan's candidate for the post of Secretary General and Mr. Aziz Siddiqui, who is serving as the Secretary-General of the FPCCI, will contest for Assistant Secretary.

Since the tenure of the present Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber, who was from Turkey, will be expiring shortly, Pakistan's delegation will try to get the two most important posts of the body.

The Islamic Chamber according to some observers has not been able to achieve any of its objectives since its inception. "It is a dormant body," one leading businessman commented.

Studies

He said that the Islamic Chamber has not helped in motivating a

single joint venture or setting up a data pool for of the Islamic countries in the last so many years. But the bearers claim that the Islamic Chamber was carrying out many studies with the help of UNIDO which would be made available to the entrepreneurs in the near future.

"The Islamic chamber is organising a meeting of the very poor Muslim countries in 1985 to discuss and work out some strategy for their development," one office bearer pointed out.

Activists of the business community feel that the Islamic Chamber should set up an Islamic Monetary Fund to promote trading among the member countries and to help support their balance of payments position.

"We had also suggested some three years ago that the Islamic Chamber should evolve a method of arbitration on the pattern of International Chamber of Commerce for settling disputes among the member countries, but no progress has been made in this regard," a Pakistani member complained.

No building

Islamic Chamber office building

for, has not yet been started though they have the land at Clifton and also have funds to the tune of \$2 million.

The Chamber has an annual income of around \$122,000 from the interest of this \$2 million deposit, while its annual expenditure is twice this amount.

Since the chamber has not been able to provide any useful service to the businessmen of member countries, many members have not even contributed their share sources said.

However, observers here feel that the coming session will take into account all these factors besides considering ways and means to activate it.

It is also believed that in line with the decision of the Organisation of Islamic Conference the Islamic Chamber will also consider restoring the membership of Egypt at the forthcoming session.

Mr. Aziz Zulfikar, President of the FPCCI and Mr. Yousaf Zia Vice-President of the Islamic Chamber will represent Pakistan in the November 7 executive committee meeting and in the general body on the following day.

CSO: 4600/72

CHECK URGED ON INCREASING CRIME

GF062028 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "One Becomes Speechless"]

[Excerpts] According to a newspaper report, there has been an 18 percent increase in crimes since 1979 throughout the country. According to official figures for 1979, there were 15,0531 cases of various crimes. This figure reached 27,548 in 1983. These figures speak for the registered crimes only and not for crimes which were never reported for some reason. There was a marked increase in crimes of murder, brigandage and kidnapping. In 1979 there were 3,735 murder cases while in 1983 there were 4,636 cases--an increase of 24 percent. Last year the kidnapping of women and children reached 4,281. In 1979 such cases were recorded at 3,328. In 1982 there were 4,593 such cases.

These scaring figures show a rapid increase in all types of crime in the country and a special increase in cases of murder, brigandage, and kidnapping.

What are the reasons for this increase? Are economic and social factors involved? Or is economic exploitation and the amassing of wealth through illegal the reason? Is an aimless education system the cause? Could it have been due to long political detentions, hollow religious power, or certain types of entertainment imported from the West? Whatever the cause it is essential to trace the causes of this increase in crime and find a solution to it. Any laxity in this matter may turn the whole society into a criminal society and plunge the whole nation into the abyss of moral degradation. If that happened any remedy will come too late.

CSO: 4656/23

AIRLINES TO PURCHASE MORE PLANES

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31: Another five aircraft (Boeing 737-300) will be added to the existing fleet of 32 aircraft of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (PIAC) by the middle of the next year, a spokesman of PIAC told APP here on Wednesday.

He said an agreement to purchase these aircraft has already been signed with aircraft manufacturers, Boeing Corporation of USA.

He said five aircraft estimated to cost US dollar 157.312 million will be received in June next. The sixth aircraft costing dollars 25.315 million will be made available to Pakistan in mid-1986.

The spokesman explained "the Boeing 737-300 aircraft has a lower fuel consumption of 10 per cent per passenger seat and 21 per cent per trip and has 10 per cent low operating cost per hour. It can take off from a shorter runway and its engine thrust is 220,000 pounds. Since it has a seating capacity of 130 pas-

sengers PIA's frequency of flights can be increased."

He said all the aircraft will be used on the domestic and regional routes replacing the existing three 720s and seven 707s, two freighters and five passenger aircraft.

The PIAC's spokesman further stated that the Sixth Five-Year Plan projects an eight per cent annual growth in passenger traffic and 10 per cent annual growth in cargo traffic.

He said out of the existing 32 aircraft, the aging Boeing 707 and 720 aircraft are to be retired during the Plan period.

In order to cater to the growing air traffic requirements the Sixth Plan provided Rs. 2,720 million for the purchase of two A-300 and six twin-jet aircraft in public sector.

This is in addition to a provision of Rs. 2721 million in the private sector for the purchase of two wide-bodied aircraft and six twin-jet aircraft, the spokesman added.—APP

CSO: 4600/71

ARMS SMUGGLING SAID DECREASED

GF160810 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 11 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, 10 Nov--The Frontier Corps' assistance has been enlisted in order to curb arms smuggling from Baluchistan to other parts of the country. The corps has set up checkpoints in areas where arms smuggling is known to be centered.

The acting Baluchistan governor, Lieutenant General Afridi said that because of these measures, smuggling has decreased considerably. He said: The security staff has (?seized) a large quantity of ammunition and arms which include cannon and antiaircraft guns. He added: There was an open market in the province which has been closed down through repeated raids.

In answer to a question, the governor said: The atmosphere is conducive to the holding of elections in Baluchistan and it will make no difference whether they are held on a party or nonparty basis. He added: The elections will not be affected by the boycott of the elections by an individual or a party.

CSO: 4656/27

BRIEFS

IRAN DETAINS RAILROAD OFFICIALS--Quetta, Nov 8--The Government of Iran has detached a bogie of Quetta bound Zahedan train and also detained four railway officials on charges of smuggling. According to a report from Taftan, Pakistan-Iran border town, the Iranian officials suspected large scale smuggling by Quetta bound Zahedan train. As the train steamed out of Zahedan for Quetta, the Iranian officials made surprise raid on it and conducted search of each compartment and each passenger on board. On search the Iranian officials found one bogie loaded with Iranian carpets without any export/import permit. There was no claimant for the carpets which were being smuggled into Pakistan from Iran. The Iranian officials, however, detained four railway officials, including the guard of the train, co-guard of the train was however, allowed to bring the train to Pakistan. An inquiry has been ordered into the matter. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Nov 84 p 2]

OIL PURCHASE FROM IRAN--Karachi, Nov 8--Iran will sell 500,000 tons of light crude oil to Pakistan during Oct 1, 1984 to Sept 20, 1985, it is learnt here today. A decision to this effect was taken at the end of the visit of the federal secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources to Tehran last week. During the visit a letter of understanding was also signed between the two countries under which Iran would purchase rice, wheat, sugar, chemical fertilisers and textiles from Pakistan and sell crude oil and minerals to Pakistan. During his stay, the federal petroleum secretary also held talks with Iranian officials on further enhancing economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Nov 84 Economic and Business Review Supplement p 1 GF]

AMBASSADORS TO INDONESIA, SOMALIA, ROK--The ambassadors designate to Indonesia, Somalia, and the Republic of Korea called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening to get guidelines for their new assignments. Mr S.M. Qureshi will be Pakistan's ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Bakhtiar Ali will serve in Somalia, and Mr Ahmad Kamal in the Republic of Korea. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Nov 84 BK]

NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE--Under an agreement signed in Islamabad, Norway is to provide Pakistan assistance worth 145 million rupees this year. The agreement came at the end of the 4-day visit of an 8-member Norwegian delegation to Pakistan. The assistance will mainly be utilized by Pakistan for the import of fertilizers as well as telecommunications and power transmission equipment. The Norwegian assistance to Pakistan is expected to increase up to 160 million rupees next year. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Nov 84 BK]

AEROSPACE INSTITUTE PLANNED--KARACHI, Oct 25: Plans for the establishment of an aerospace institute to conduct post-graduate courses in various disciplines of aerospace and engineering are in an advanced stage of finalisation by Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), it is learnt. The proposed institute, first of its type in the country, will cater to the expanding needs of SUPARCO which call for more elaborate training programmes and facilities for a large number of trainees. In due course of time, the institute may seek affiliation with an engineering university so as to award Master's degree in aerospace engineering. Meanwhile, SUPARCO has introduced a scheme to encourage its scientists to promote research and development work. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 84 p 20]

COURT DIRECTIVE ON MEETINGS--Lahore, Oct 27: The Registrar of the Supreme Court has conveyed the directive of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Mohammad Haleem, to the Secretary, Pakistan Bar Council, that in future, no political meeting should be held under the auspices of the Council in the premises of the Supreme Court. In a letter, the Registrar said that it appeared from newspaper reports that in the first meeting of the newly-elected Pakistan Bar Council, held on Aug. 2, in the Supreme Court premises, Rawalpindi, some political matters were discussed. The Registrar conveyed to the secretary that he had been directed by the Chief Justice to request and to ensure that the Supreme Court premises was not used in future for discussing political issues. The sanctity of the building, where the highest judicial institution of the country worked, should be maintained by all concerned. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Oct 84 p 2]

PUBLICATIONS BANNED IN SIND--Karachi, Oct. 23: The Home Department of Sind Government has ordered immediate forfeiture of English monthly, "Democratic Pakistan" of London and Urdu monthly, "Shaheen" of Copenhagen, Denmark (July, 1984 issue) for containing objectionable material. The forfeiture has been ordered under the Press and Publications Ordinance 1963. An Urdu pamphlet, "14 August Azadi, Kaisi Azadi" and an article, in book "Ani Manjh Pasah" written by late Sher Mohammad Baloch, retired Secretary, Irrigation Department of Sind, have also been banned for containing subversive, provocative and inciting material. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 84 p 5]

CHINESE ASSISTANCE LAUDED--LAHORE, Oct 25: The visiting Chinese newsmen were briefed on WAPDA-China cooperation by the WAPDA Chairman, Lt. Gen. Safdar Butt, at WAPDA House here on Thursday. The WAPDA chief said that Chinese engineers and technicians were currently busy at Guddu thermal power station in installing the machinery for 210 megawatt thermal power station. He said nearly 90 per cent of the foreign exchange had been advanced by the Chinese firm for this project. Gen Butt thanked China for its generous project assistance for the construction of Tarbela-Burham 220 kv transmission line and Tarbela-Mardan 220 kv transmission line. The WAPDA Chairman said WAPDA would welcome Chinese participation in the construction of Kalabagh Dam and also collaboration in small hydel schemes. He also pointed out several other areas where China would cooperate with WAPDA. The leader of the Chinese newsmen delegation, Mr. Li Pu, said that Pakistan and China friendship was exemplary. He hoped that with the building of the Karakoram Highway, there would be more exchange of goods and personnel between the two countries. The WAPDA also hosted a luncheon in honour of the Chinese newsmen. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 84 p 2]

BAN ON HAJ SEA TRAVEL--A conference will be called next month to discuss government arrangements for Haj. According to informed sources, the conference will consider a proposal to halt Haj travel by sea. It is not known how this proposal cropped up. Haj by sea is much cheaper and PIA can transport only a limited number of pilgrims. There does not seem to be any plausible reason for stopping Haj travel by sea, which has been done for centuries. Some people prefer to go by sea because during such a journey they can forget everything and get completely absorbed in prayers and devotion. This gives them great spiritual uplift. The present regime claims to be a champion of Islam. It should increase, not diminish, people's ability to go on Haj. Even India and other non-Muslim governments are not denying Muslims the right to go on Haj by sea, but the Islamic government of Pakistan is considering and may impose a ban on Haj travel by sea. It is the duty of the religious scholars to tell the regime that such a step would be considered anti-Islamic. [Editorial] [Text] [Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 24 Oct 84 p 3] 12476

SPANISH AMBASSADOR DEPARTS--Departing Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan Victor Sanchez-Mesas made a farewell call on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The president presented him books on Pakistan. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4656/27

END